嘘喰い
uso
gui
7
迫稔雄

嘘喰い
uso gui

7

迫稔雄

YJ ヤングジャンプ YJC

嘘喰い 7

迫稔雄

集英社

洞穴に響く佐田国の末期の叫び!!

予期せず発射された凶弾の行方は!?

最後に"嘘喰い"鏑木がお屋形様に出した条件とは!?

廃坑のテロリスト編、完全決着!!

そして…あらたなる物語が始まる!!

9784088774107

1929979005054

ISBN978-4-08-877410-7

C9979 ¥505E

定価 本体505円+税

雑誌 44264－10

YJ

uso gui

嘘喰い

迫稔雄

sako toshio

presents

7

追稔雄

sako toshio

presents

嘘喰い

usokui

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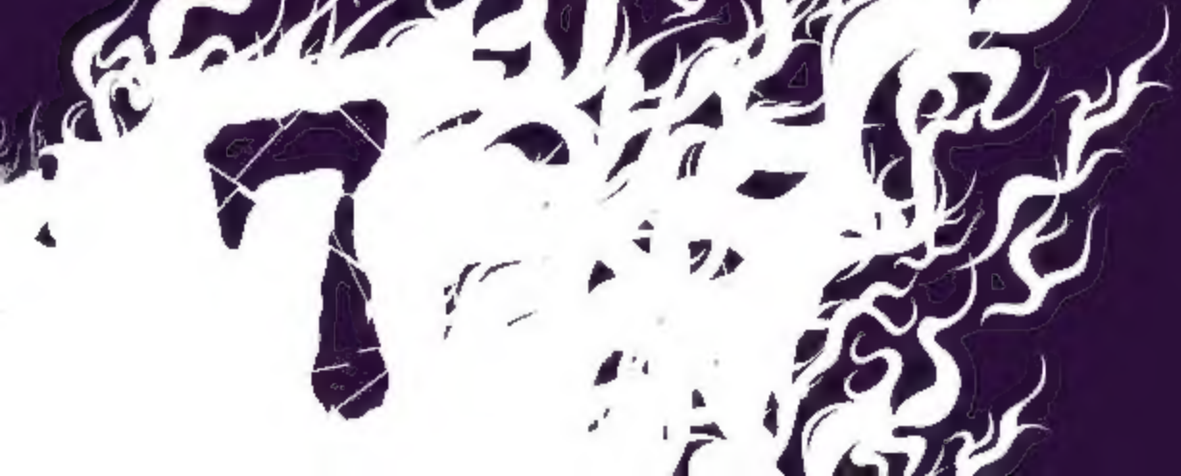
喰狼

Contents

この作品はフィクションです。
実在の人物・団体・事件などには
いっさい関係ありません。



斑目貘（まだらめばく）

◆前巻までのあらすじ

突如、廃坑へと現れた賭郎のお屋形様。彼の真意を探る斑目貘は、ハングマンでの勝ち金の全てを賭けて、新たな勝負を持ち掛ける。一方、貘からミサイル発射阻止を託されていたマルコは、死闘の末に伽羅を打ち破る。ミサイルを確保し、勝ち名乗りを宣言する貘だが、その時!!

マルコ

梶隆臣（かじたかおみ）

登場人物紹介

夜行妃古壱（やこうひこいち）

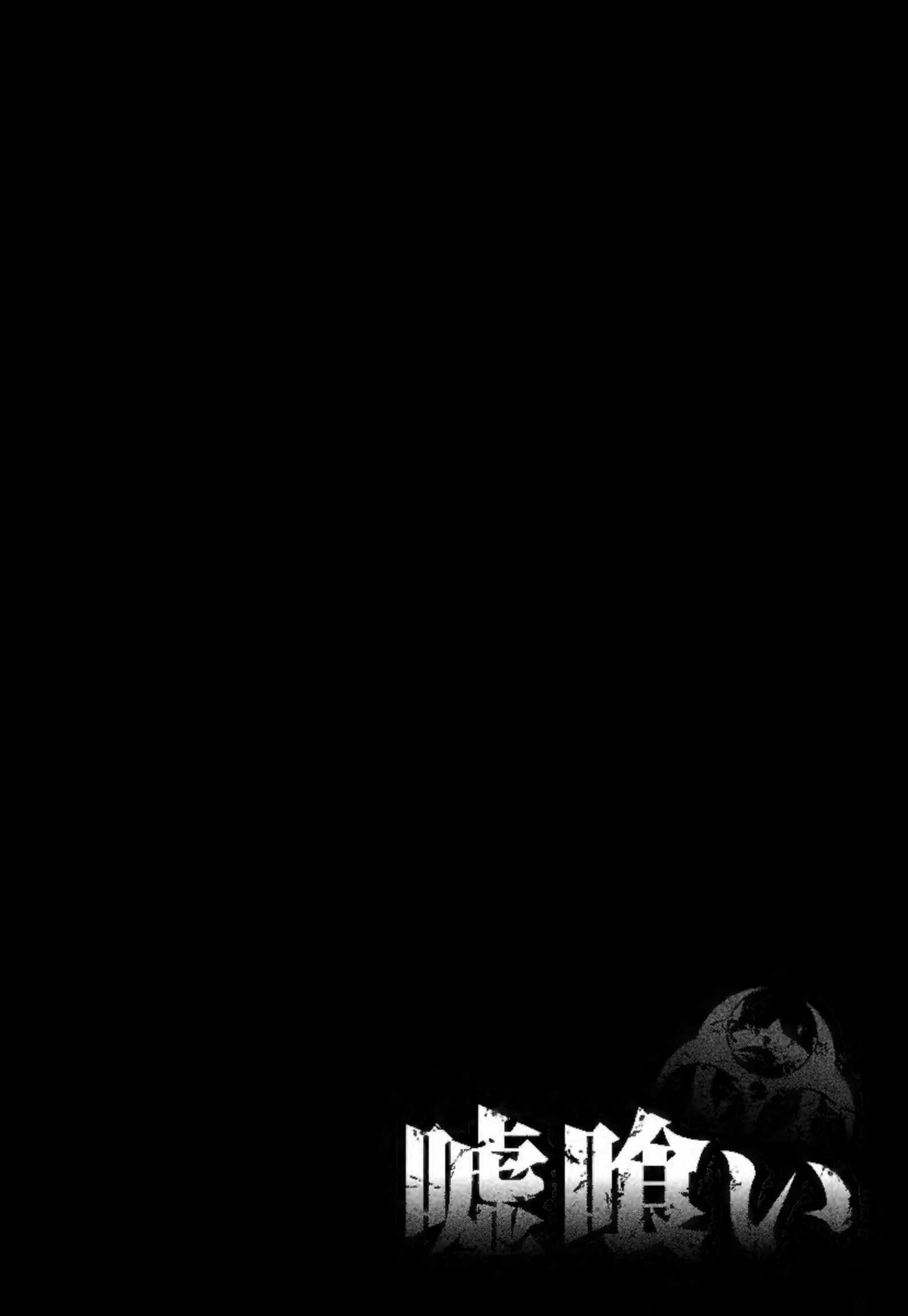
切間創一（きるまそういち）

目蒲鬼郎（めかまきろう）

佐田国一輝（さだくにいつき）

鞍馬蘭子（くらまらんこ）

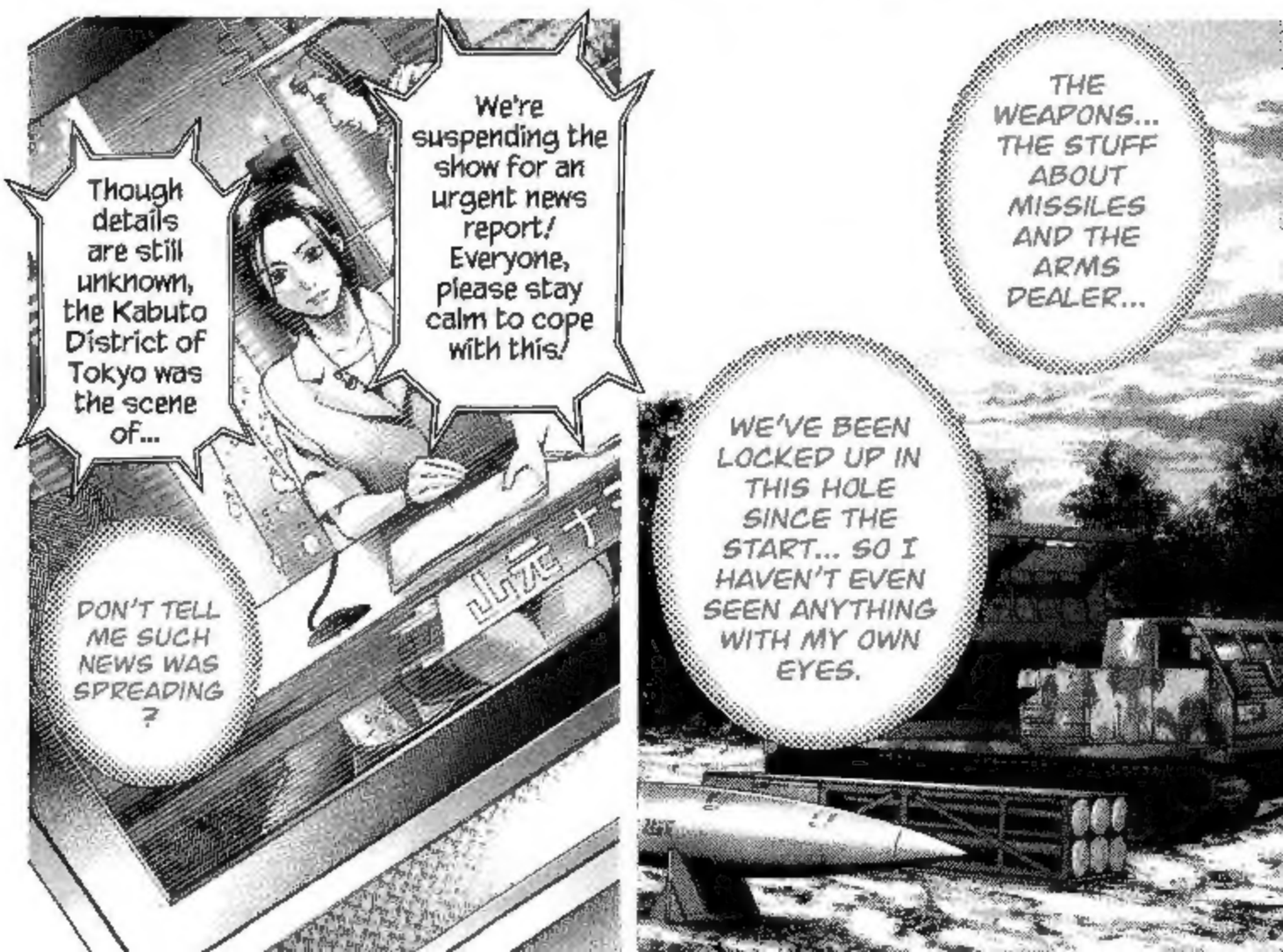
伽羅（きゃら）

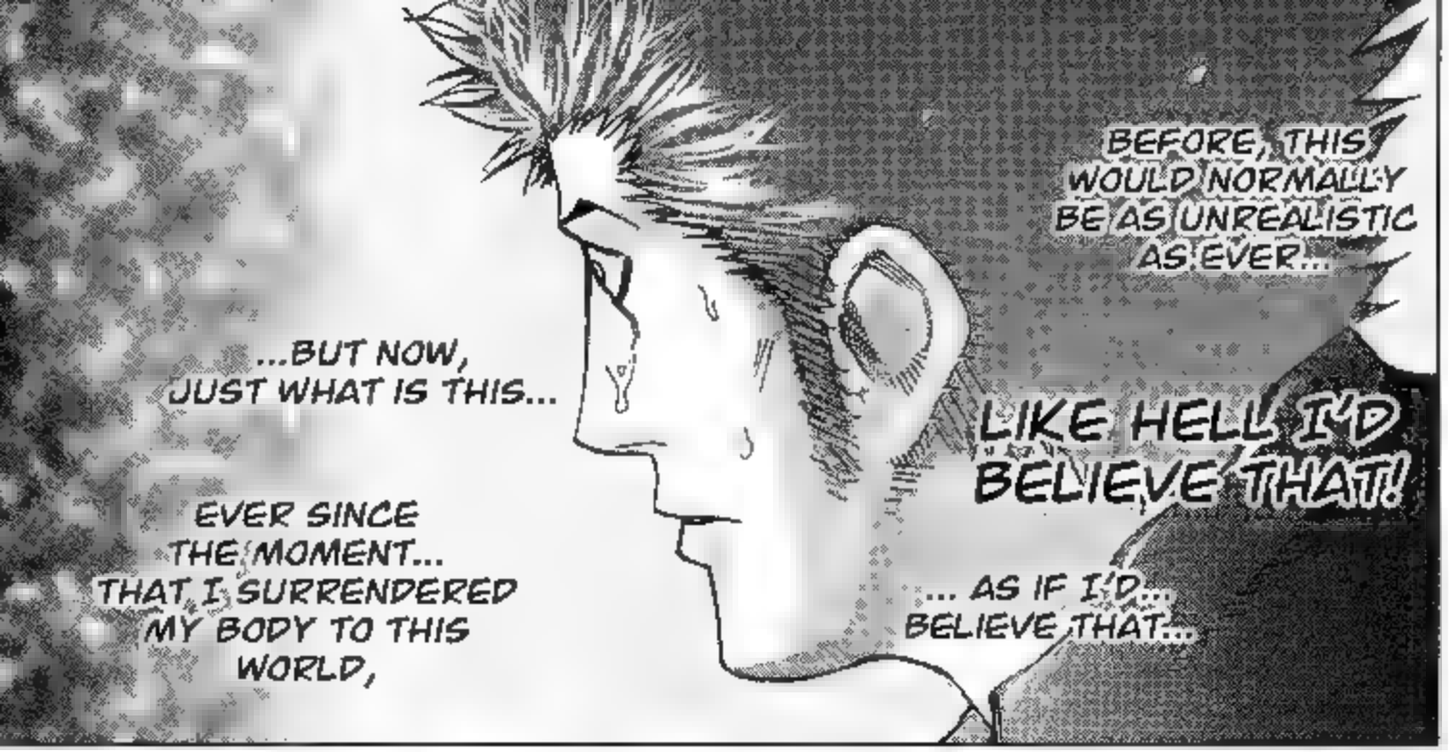

喰喰

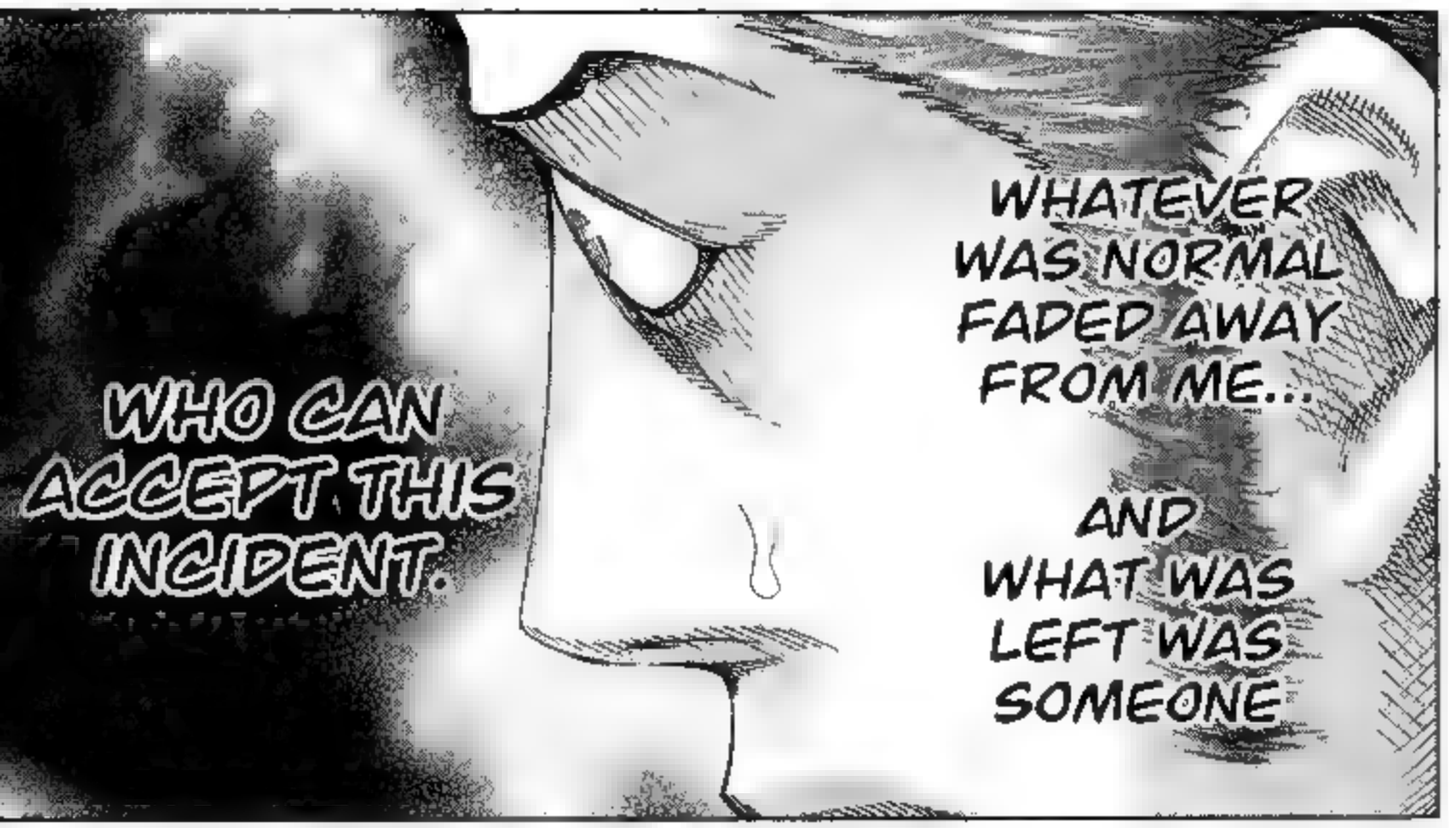
THIS IS BAD...
Going Berserk
第6話
テンバラ
WHAT LEADER SAID BACK THEN MEANT THAT...
ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN AWAY CLUMSILY.
MY INSTINCTS TELL ME...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE RIGHT NOW.
.....
I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER THAT... TAKOU-SAN
NO MATTER WHAT,
I HAVE TO WIN AGAINST THIS MONSTER.
USOGUI,
Just now... The missiles...
?
...Have launched.

Going Berserk
第6話
テンパる
……
!
……

WELL... NO KIDDING! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING... EVERYTHING'S ALL WHAT WE HEARD FROM OTHERS.
THIS TALK... ISN'T REALISTIC AT ALL.
.....
WHAT... WHAT DID SHE SAY...? I'M SURE SHE SAID THAT THE MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED.

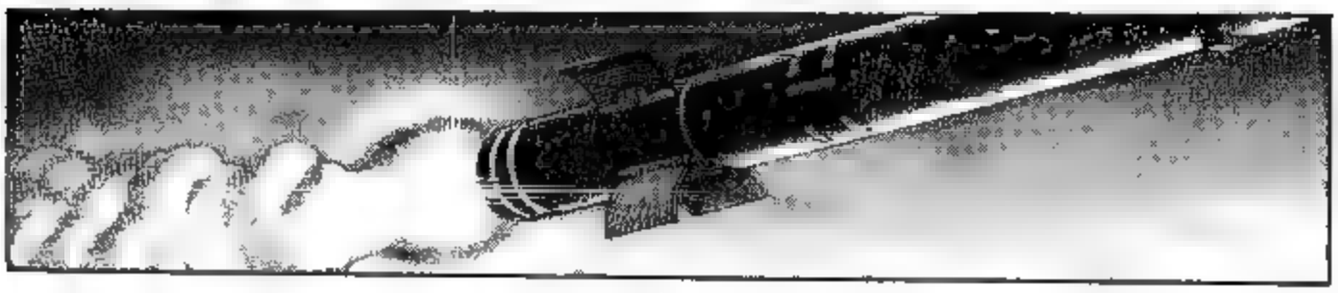

Though details are still unknown, the Kabuto District of Tokyo was the scene of...
We're suspending the show for an urgent news report! Everyone, please stay calm to cope with this!
DON'T TELL ME SUCH NEWS WAS SPREADING ?
THE WEAPONS... THE STUFF ABOUT MISSILES AND THE ARMS DEALER...
WE'VE BEEN LOCKED UP IN THIS HOLE SINCE THE START... SO I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN ANYTHING WITH MY OWN EYES.


BEFORE, THIS WOULD NORMALLY BE AS UNREALISTIC AS EVER...
...BUT NOW, JUST WHAT IS THIS...
LIKE HELL I'D BELIEVE THAT!
EVER SINCE THE MOMENT... THAT I SURRENDERED MY BODY TO THIS WORLD,
... AS IF I'D... BELIEVE THAT...

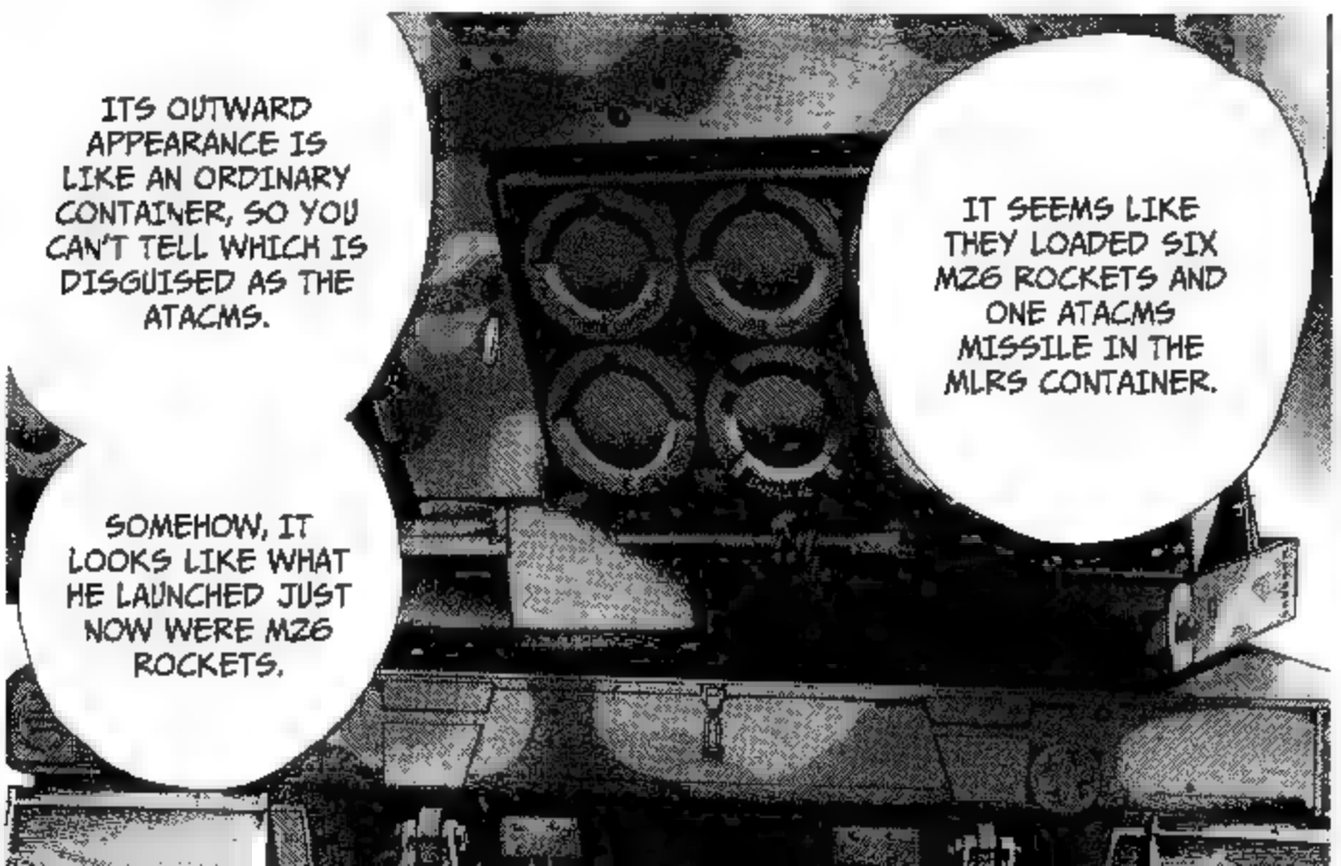

WHO CAN ACCEPT THIS INCIDENT.
WHATEVER WAS NORMAL FADED AWAY FROM ME...
AND WHAT WAS LEFT WAS SOMEONE

Wait a second...
RANKO...

RANKO... IT SEEMS THAT...
THAT'S ...
.....



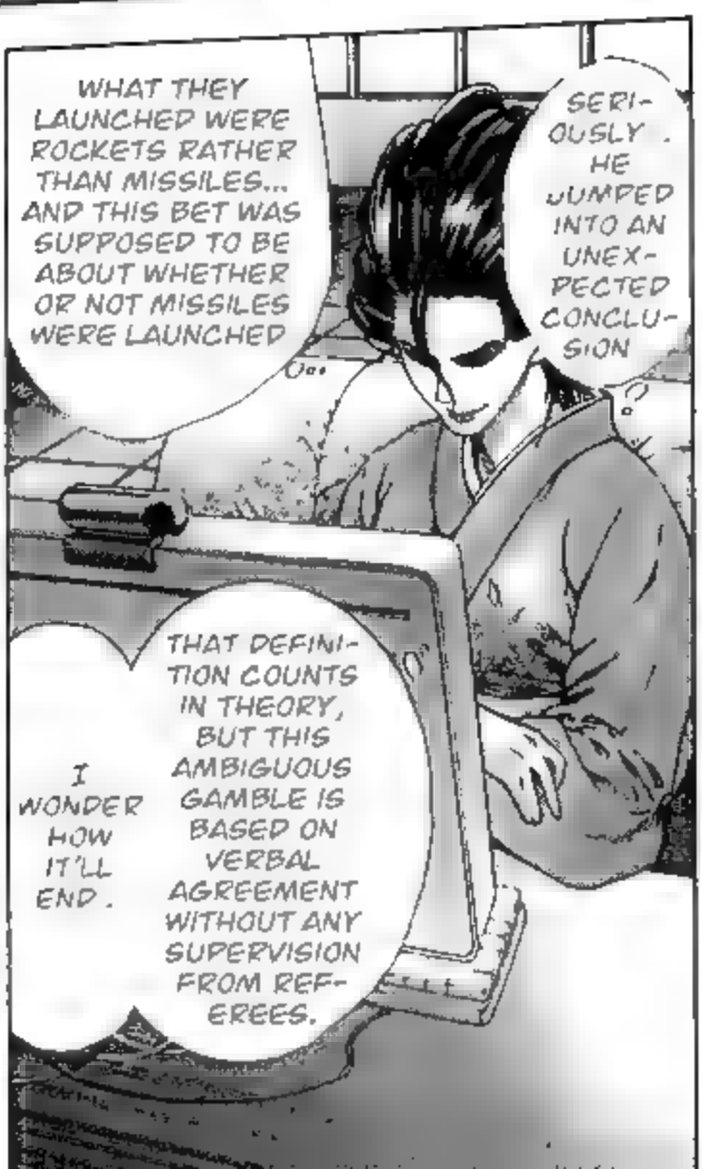
Rockets... They're M26 rockets.
?
They're not missiles.
THOSE AREN'T ATACMS.
I WAS WRONG ...


ITS OUTWARD APPEARANCE IS LIKE AN ORDINARY CONTAINER, SO YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH IS DISGUISED AS THE ATACMS.
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY LOADED SIX M26 ROCKETS AND ONE ATACMS MISSILE IN THE MLRS CONTAINER.
SOMEHOW, IT LOOKS LIKE WHAT HE LAUNCHED JUST NOW WERE M26 ROCKETS.

Their range is short... If we're lucky enough, they'll disappear in the sea of forests.
LEO... DON'T SURPRISE ME FOR NOTHING...
YOU FOOL...

BUT STILL...

I THOUGHT HE MADE IT IN TIME... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, MARCO...?
ガクガク
ブルブル


WHAT THEY LAUNCHED WERE ROCKETS RATHER THAN MISSILES... AND THIS BET WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED
SERIOUSLY. HE JUMPED INTO AN UNEXPECTED CONCLUSION
I WONDER HOW IT'LL END.
THAT DEFINITION COUNTS IN THEORY, BUT THIS AMBIGUOUS GAMBLE IS BASED ON VERBAL AGREEMENT WITHOUT ANY SUPERVISION FROM REFEREES.

OWW
...
HAA
AAA

SWIP
I WILL

PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
FIRST,
I ADMIT THAT I LOST TO YOU...

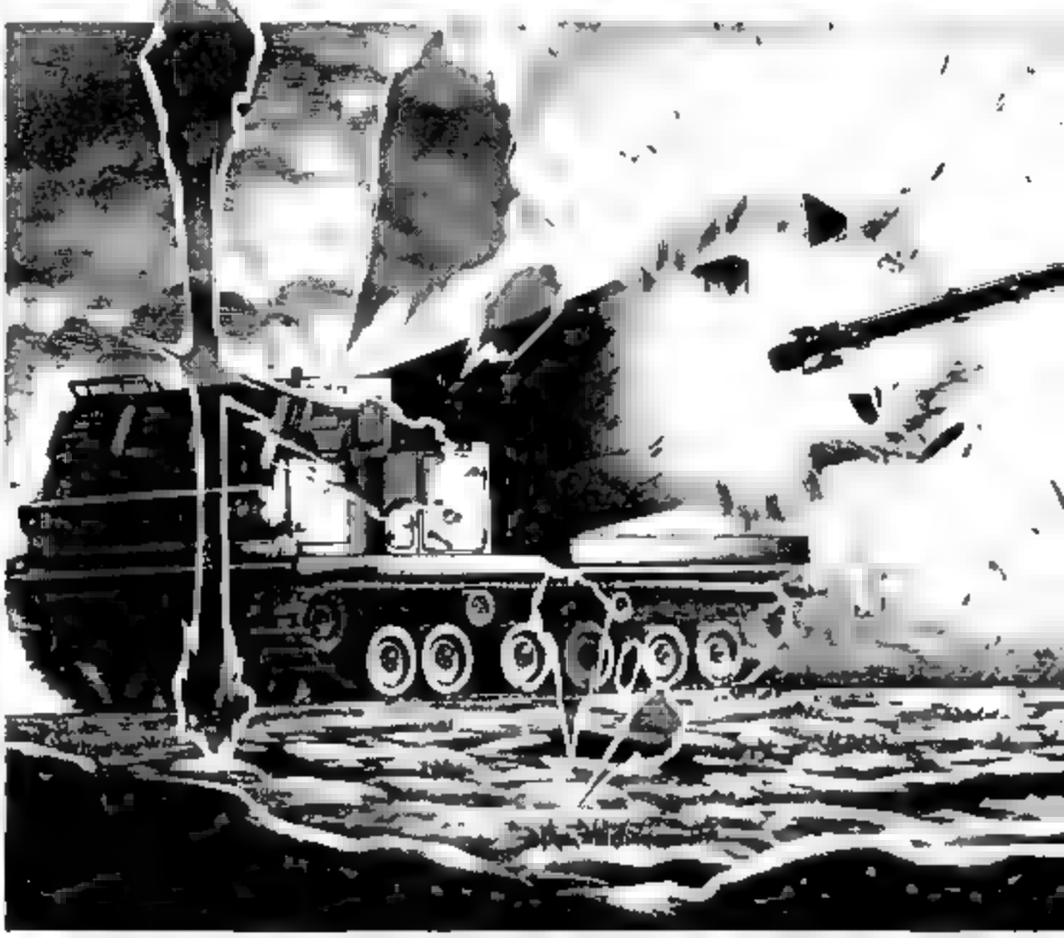
THE MISSILES.
STOP

PLEASE HOLD ON.

!?
HUH? YOU...
BUT JUST NOW... YOU TRIED LAUNCHING THE MISSILES...
YOU AND YOUR EFFORTS TO STOP THE MISSILES...
RIGHT NOW, I AM REALLY TOUCHED BY YOUR ENTHUSIASM...
I WILL BECOME THE SCAPEGOAT.
I'LL EVEN OPPOSE KYARA IF NECESSARY.
FOR ME TO CORRECT MYSELF... AND FOR YOU TO COME.
BUT IT WAS A LITTLE TOO LATE...
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME TO THE VERY END... I WAS SITTING THERE WITHOUT A DOUBT,
Y... YOU!! YOU'RE BAD!
IF YOU FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS, YOU CAN STILL STOP THE MISSILES!!
LISTEN!! THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO LISTEN UNTIL THE END!
UNFORTUNATELY,
ALL SYSTEMS WERE PERFECTED BEFOREHAND.
COUNTDOWN FOR THE LAUNCH ALREADY BEGAN.
ERMM
WHICH MEANS...

YES, THE DOOR IS AS YOU OPENED IT.
FIRST, THE ONE ON THE RIGHT... YES! PUSH THAT.
AFTER THAT, THE LEVER ON THE LEFT ...
AH, UM...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO STOP IT?
YOU PROBABLY DON'T TRUST ME YET... THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD DO IT YOURSELF.
UGH... OOOH...
YOU MUSTN'T PRESS THE WRONG ONE.
HURRY... DON'T LOOK AT THE MONITOR...
YOUR FINGERS ARE SHAKING... CALM DOWN.

.....
ACK...

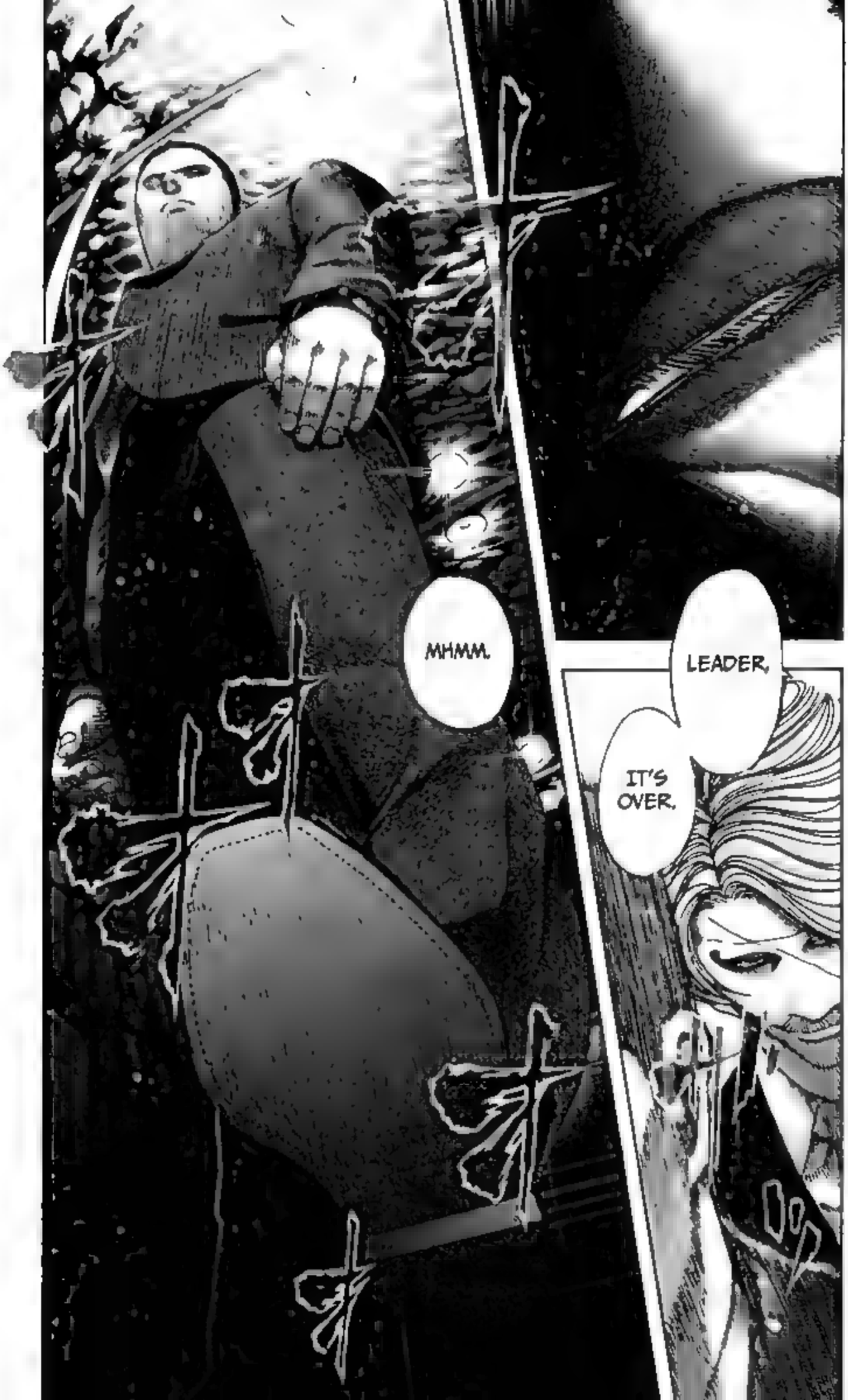


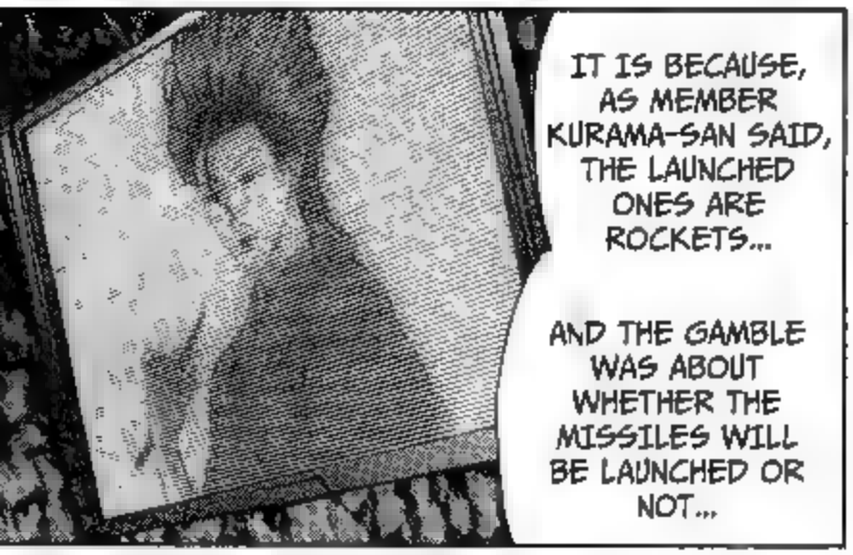
BEARDIE!
FUUUCK!
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?
UAAA GH!
I THOUGHT I WAS ALMOST THERE, TOO!
"HUH? NO WAY! HOW COME IT'S GOING SO SMOOTHLY?"
DAMN, I THOUGHT
huff
huff
huff
HAHA, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,
EXCELLENT!! IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME!
I'LL GO BE OFF IN A FOREST NOW.
DID MY WARNING ABOUT THE COUNTDOWN HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT?
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THAT BRAT!? ON TOP OF HIS EASILY FREAKED OUT NATURE, HE PRESSES A WRONG BUTTON!?

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO DO HERE
...
OH MAN.. IT SEEMS LIKE.
YOU MAY READ ONE STEP AHEAD... OR STEAL A MARCH ON YOUR OPPONENT.
BUT THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH USING YOUR MIND... AFTER ALL,
YOU HAVE TO TRUST YOUR LUCK FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

かり梅
IF YOU RUN OUT OF LUCK, THEN YOU NEED TO PAY THE PRICE... NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU TRIPPED BECAUSE OF A SMALL STONE... THAT HAPPENED...

TO THE PERSON THAT KEEPS ON WINNING.
かり梅

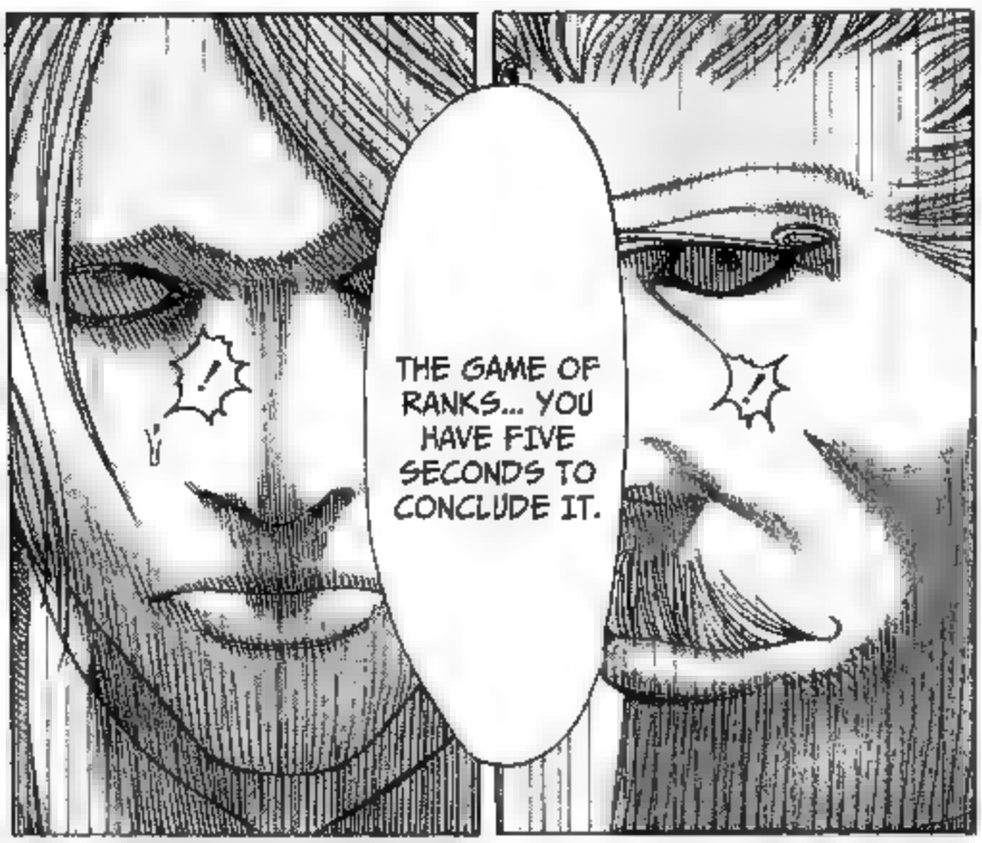

MHMM.
LEADER.
IT'S OVER.


IT IS BECAUSE, AS MEMBER KURAMA-SAN SAID, THE LAUNCHED ONES ARE ROCKETS...
AND THE GAMBLE WAS ABOUT WHETHER THE MISSILES WILL BE LAUNCHED OR NOT...

ROCKETS, HUH?... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

THERE'S NO NEED TO STAY ANY LONGER IN HERE.
THE ROCKETS WILL CRASH AMONG THE MOUNTAINS... NATIONAL FORCES WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH MATTERS INSIDE THE ABANDONED MINE, BUT THEY WOULD SURELY INTERFERE WITH WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE.

I THOUGHT THIS WHEN I SAW THE FIGHT... THAT THIS GAME OF RANKS WAS NOTHING BUT A KIDS' GAME.
CLATTER


THE GAME OF RANKS... YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO CONCLUDE IT.

I APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE FORMER REFEREES WHO PUT THEIR PRIDES ON THE LINE AND FOUGHT FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR RANKS...
I HEREBY RETURN THE TITLES OF ALL THE REFEREES THAT APPEARED IN KAKEROU'S HISTORY, AND CHANGE THE WAY OF THE GAME OF RANKS FOREVER.
AND FINALLY, LET US SEE SADAKUNI-KUN'S HANGING WITH OUR OWN EYES AND CLOSE TODAY'S CURTAINS.
!

平平
"NUMBER" REPRESENTS "OVERPOWERING", WHICH IS SYNONYMOUS TO SUPERIORITY.
AND ON LIMITED OCCASIONS... IT ALSO REFERS TO UNCOMMON JOBS, AS IN "RARE BUSINESS".
IT POINTS AT VARIOUS SIDES OF BATTLE POWER, SUCH AS "MANLINESS" AND "STRENGTH".
THAT WAS ORIGINALLY THE TITLE BESTOWED TO THE FIRST GENERATION REFEREES.
Sacrificing
第66話 捧げる

THE AIM FOR HIGHER STATUS IS WHAT GAVE BIRTH TO REFEREES CHALLENGING EACH OTHER; HOWEVER REFEREES' ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CHALLENGE EACH OTHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHILE AT IT, REFEREES USED TO AVERT THEIR ATTENTIONS FROM THEIR REAL JOBS; THEREFORE SOME LIMITATIONS WERE INTRODUCED.
THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS...
THE "BATTLE OF RANKS" HAS A TIME LIMIT OF 10 SECONDS.
WITHIN THAT TIME, THE CHALLENGER HAS TO KILL ITS OPPONENT,
AND THE ONE WHO ACCEPTS MUST PUT ALL HIS STRENGTH INTO AVOIDING THAT RESULT.
CURRENTLY IT IS HALFWAY THROUGH THE CHALLENGE, SO THE TIME LIMIT WILL BE HALVED TO 5 SECONDS.
THIS FIGHT WHERE DEFENSE IS UNNECESSARY ...
IS A MUTUAL SCRAMBLE FOR LIVES WHICH YOU CALL RANKS.
AFTER 5 SECONDS... SHOULD THE MATCH REACH NO CONCLUSION, THE CHALLENGER MEKAMA WILL BE...

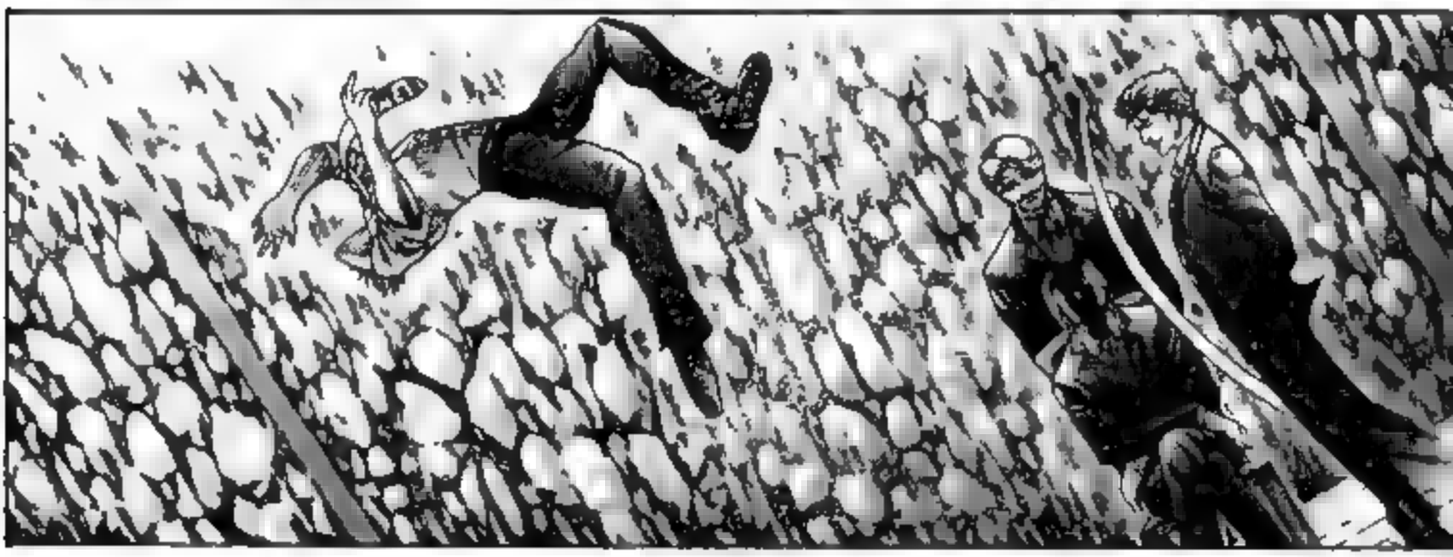
ELIMINATED.
SIMPLY PUT, IF YOU AIM AT A HIGHER POSITION, YOU MUST GAMBLE YOUR LIFE.
HOW'S THAT MEKAMA...? IT'S NO MORE THE SHOW THAN WHAT IT WAS BEFORE...
BUT THE EXCITEMENT YOU'LL GET FROM THIS, SHOULD BE WORLDS APART FROM WHAT YOU GOT FROM THAT DULL CHALLENGE OF RANKS.

VERY WELL... IT'S THE IDEAL SITUATION...
MY RESOLUTION THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT.
THIS GAME WILL CONCLUDE IN THE NEXT 5 SECONDS
MARCO... STILL HASN'T... SHOWN UP... MOREOVER, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE CONFISCATION THAT STILL THREATENS BAKU-SAN?

NOW THEN, RESUME!

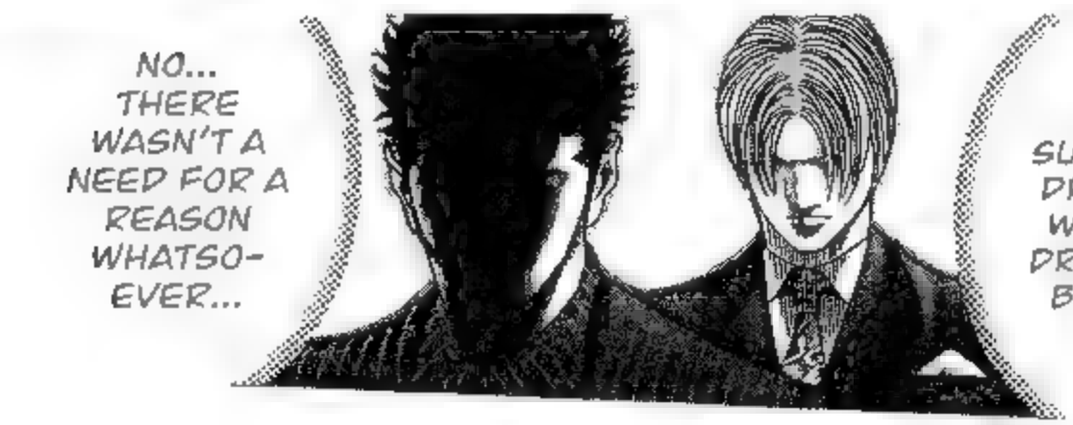
ONE
...

お
TWO



I COULD DO EVERY-THING.
EVER SINCE I WAS AN INFANT, I WAS A SPECIAL PERSON WHO WAS GRANTED EVERYTHING... INTELLECT,
THERE WAS NOTHING THAT WAS OUT OF MY CALCULA-TIONS.
EVERY-THING...

ANYTHING YOU CAN NAME...
POWER,

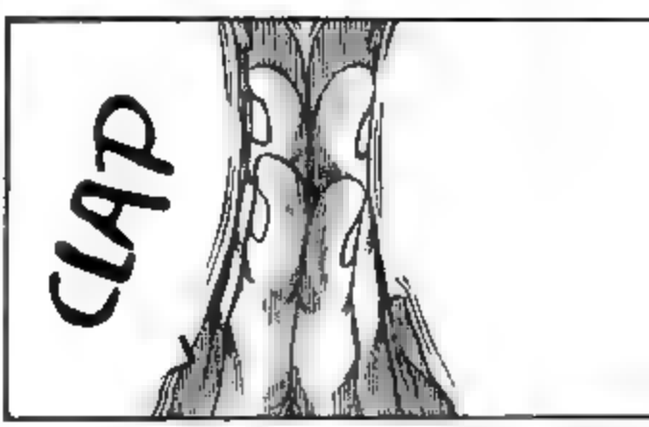

NO... THERE WASN'T A NEED FOR A REASON WHATSO-EVER...
SINCE I WAS SUPERIOR, I NEVER DREAMED... THERE WAS NO NEED FOR DREAMING EITHER. BUT WHY WAS I...

I HAD BECOME ALLURED.
I SAW JUST A SINGLE GLANCE. IN THAT INSTANCE. WITH JUST THAT...
REASONS WERE SIMPLY UNNECES-SARY

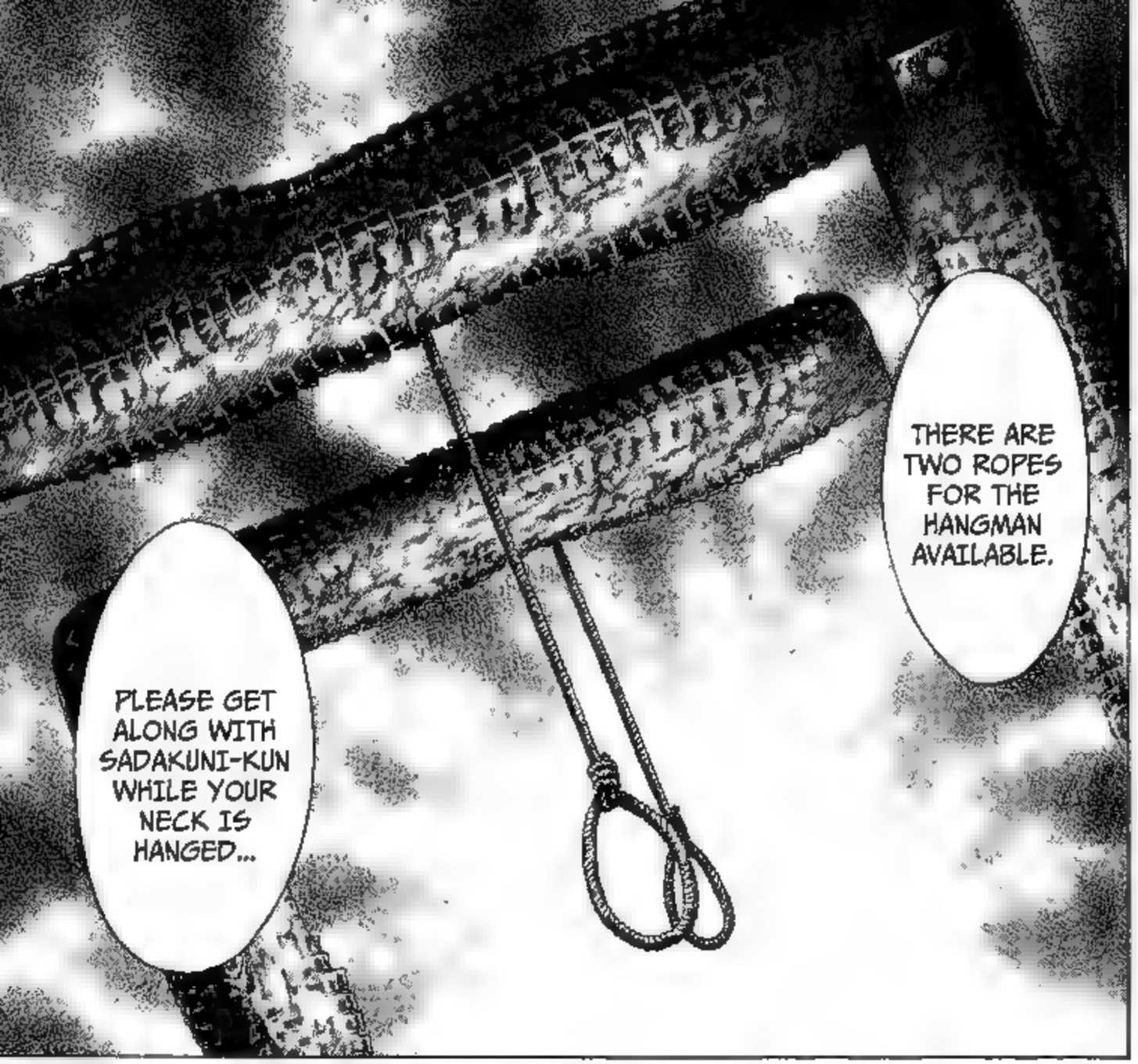
AS A REVOLUTIONARY WITH NO FEAR OF DEATH,
HAVING NOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION ABOUT TAKING LIVES,
AND WITH NO WILL TO LOOK BACK...

COMPARED TO SADAKUNI-SAMA'S UNIQUE AND UNPRECEDENTED PRESENCE.
.....
I REALIZED HOW INSIGNIFICANT MY EXISTENCE ACTUALLY WAS...

I ACTUALLY WANTED TO CONFIRM IT MYSELF, BUT THAT'S NO LONGER NECESSARY.
ON MY WAY HERE, NOWA REPORTED THAT MEKAMA HAD BEEN AIDING SADAKUNI-KUN'S FOUL PLAY.
INCIDENTALLY...


CLAP

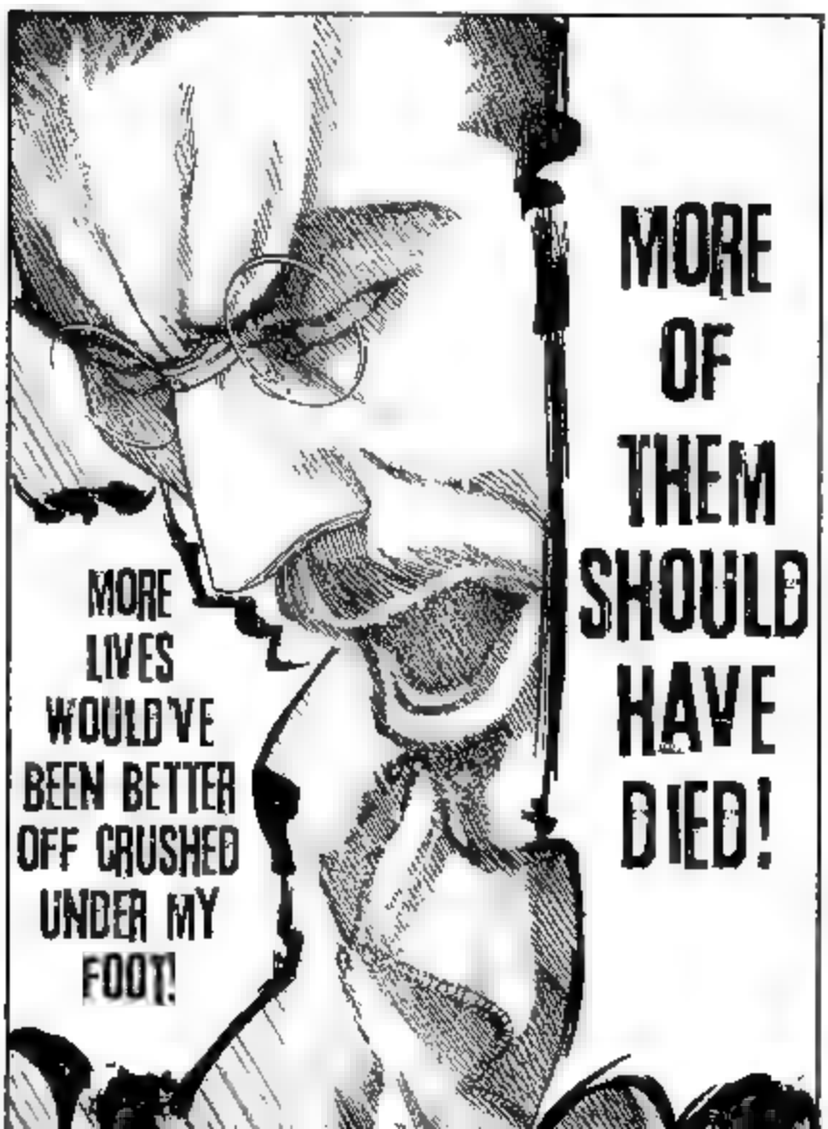
FIVE SECONDS... GAME OVER... THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS ENDS WITH FAILURE... MEKAMA WILL BE
ELIMINATED!


THERE ARE TWO ROPES FOR THE HANGMAN AVAILABLE.
PLEASE GET ALONG WITH SADAKUNI-KUN WHILE YOUR NECK IS HANGED...

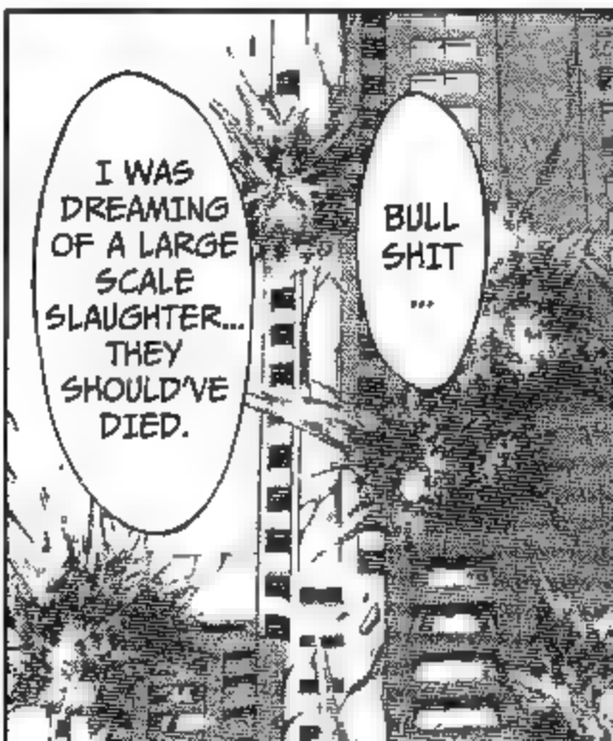
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO EXCEPT FOLLOW THAT DISILLUSIONED MAN TO THE OTHER WORLD WITHOUT REGRETS.
NO STRUGGLE WILL SAVE SADAKUNI-SAMA ANYMORE...
THAT'S RIGHT...
.....

HMPH

MY REVO-LUTION ...
MY MY, HE'S BEEN SILENT FOR A WHILE AS IF ENLIGHTENED... I DON'T LIKE THIS.
.....


MORE OF THEM SHOULD HAVE DIED!
MORE LIVES WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF CRUSHED UNDER MY FOOT!

.....
WAS TOYED FOR SAKE OF MONEY!?


I WAS DREAMING OF A LARGE SCALE SLAUGHTER... THEY SHOULD'VE DIED.
BULL SHIT ...

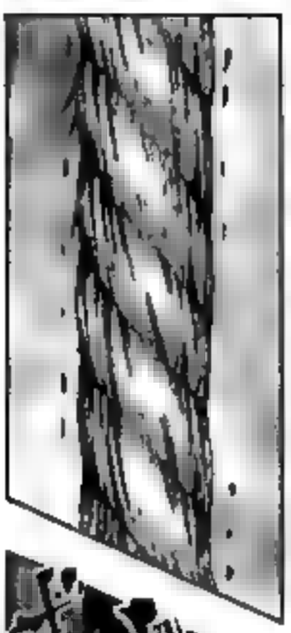
!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU PEST?
IF YOU WERE EXPECTING TO SEE THE WRITHING FACE OF A DYING MAN, YOU'LL BE DISAP-POINTED.
THIS IS MY FATE... I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH!!

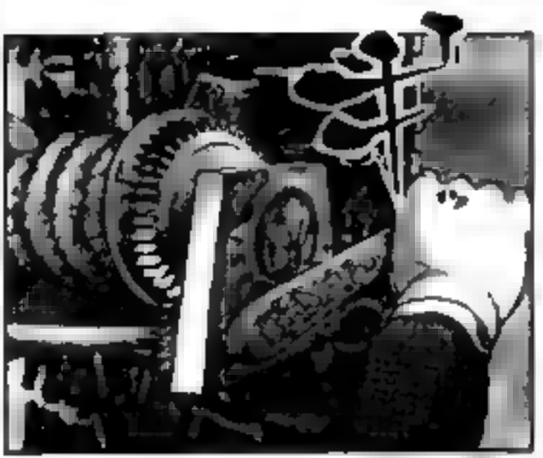
THIS...
ISN'T FATE!
YOUR DEATH IS...

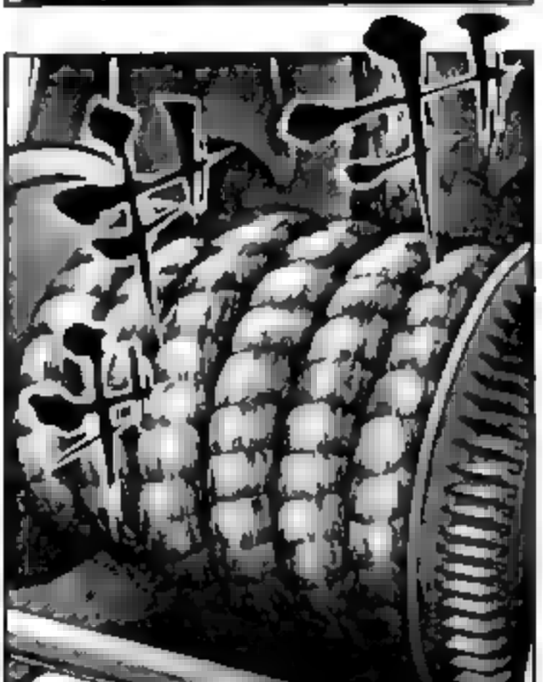
FATE, NOTH-ING ELSE.
.....
ACCEPTING DEATH... HUH?

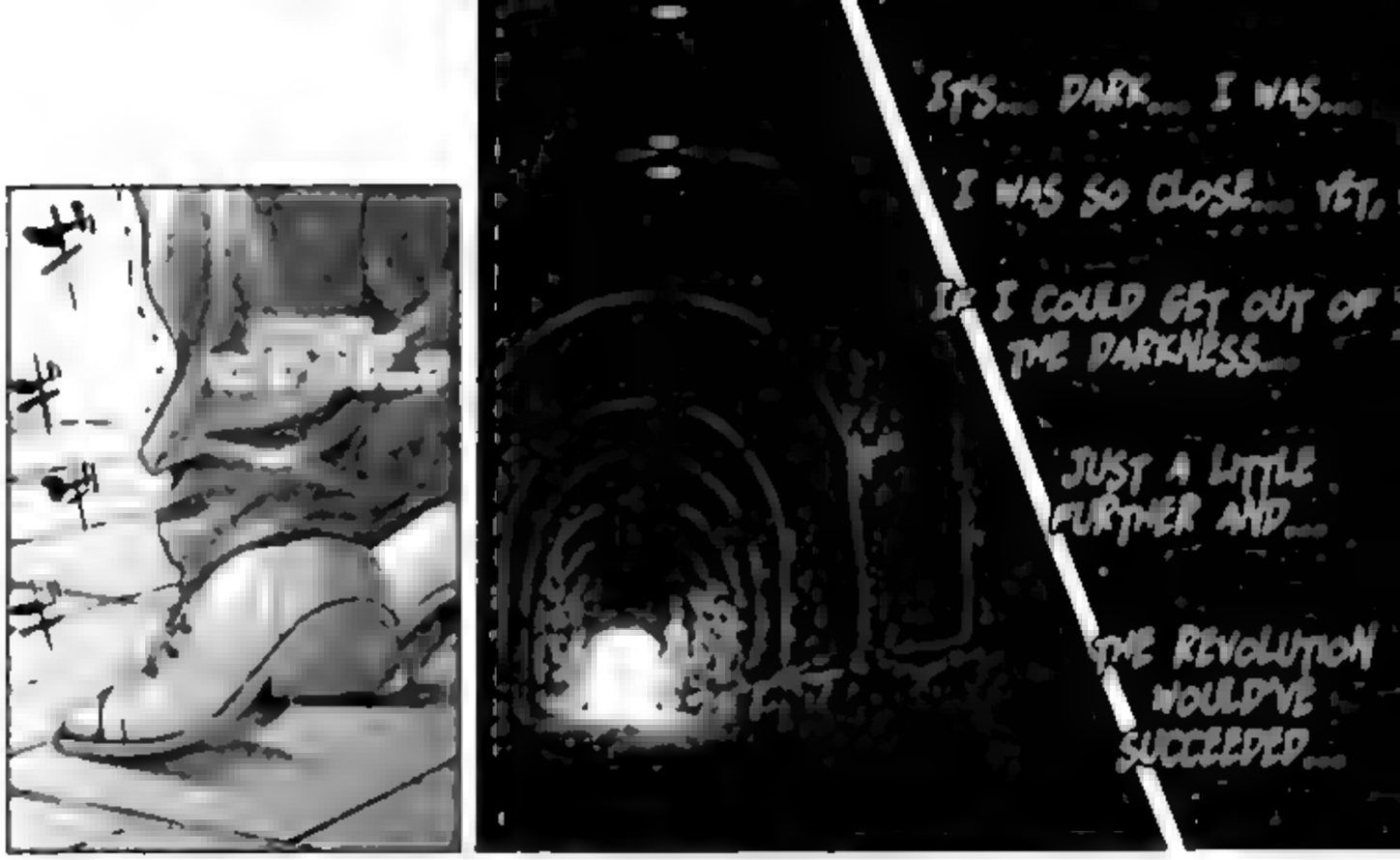
YOUR PUNISH-MENT.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT DEATH ISN'T FEARSOME, WHEN YOU'VE NEVER DIED BEFORE?
BY THE WAY, SADA-CHAN...
A FOOLISH MURDERER AND HIS FOOLISH REVOLU-TION.
!

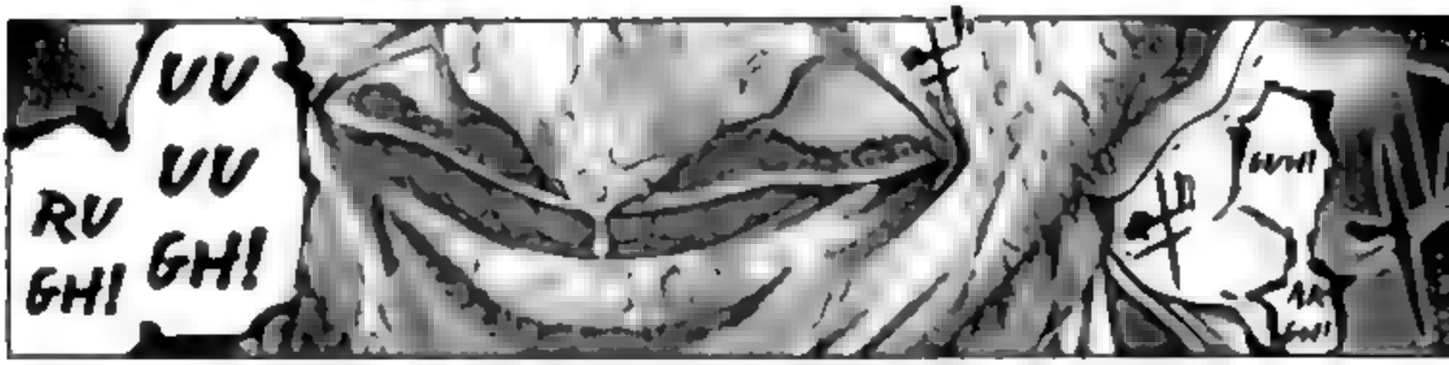
HE WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS ANYMORE... I WON'T HAVE ANY EITHER.
HE HAD THE GUTS TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS WHEN HIS LIFE WAS AT STAKE
HMPH. YOU FOOL. SADAKUNI-SAMA ISN'T AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE DEATH... HE HAD CONQUERED THOSE FEELINGS LONG AGO.





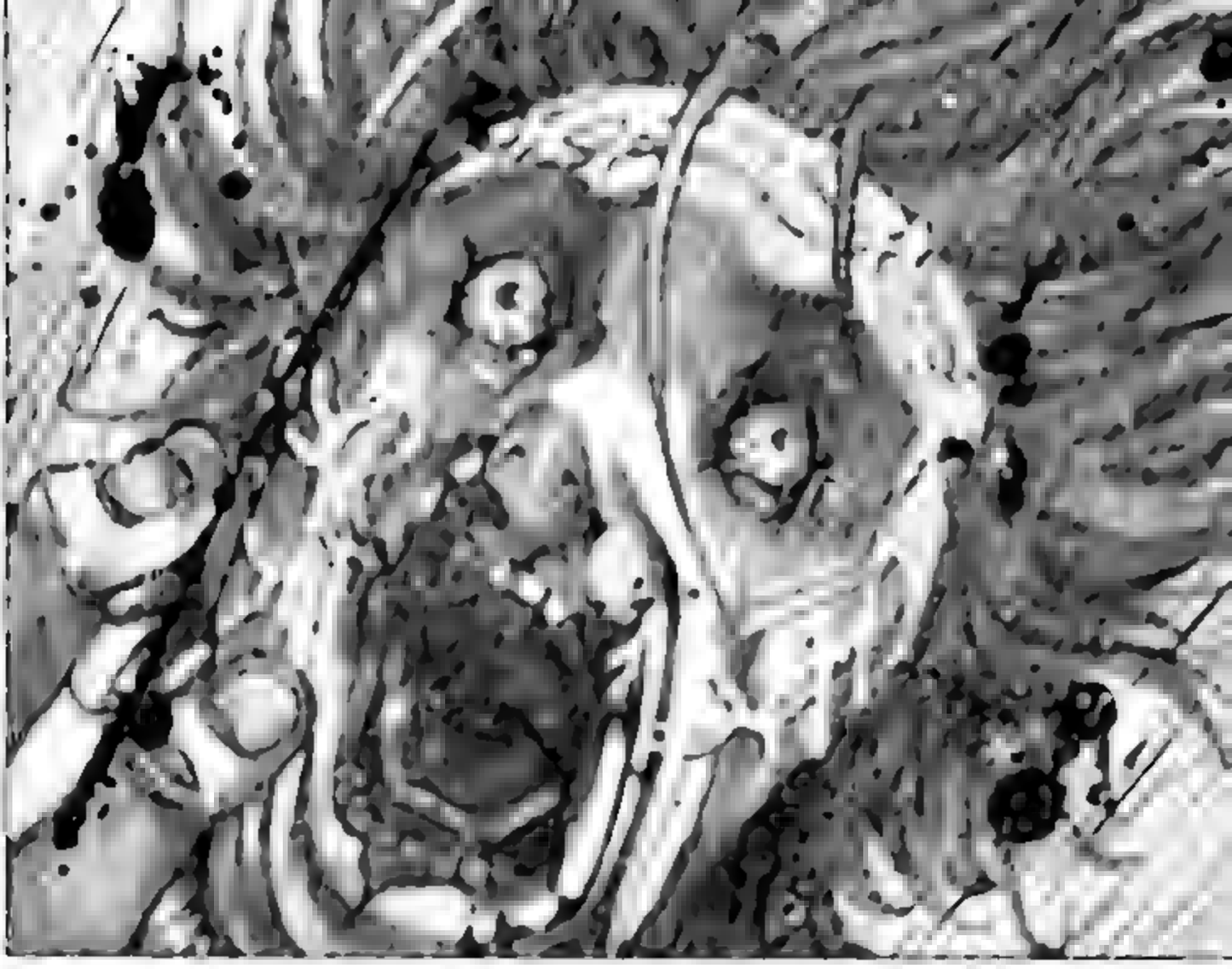


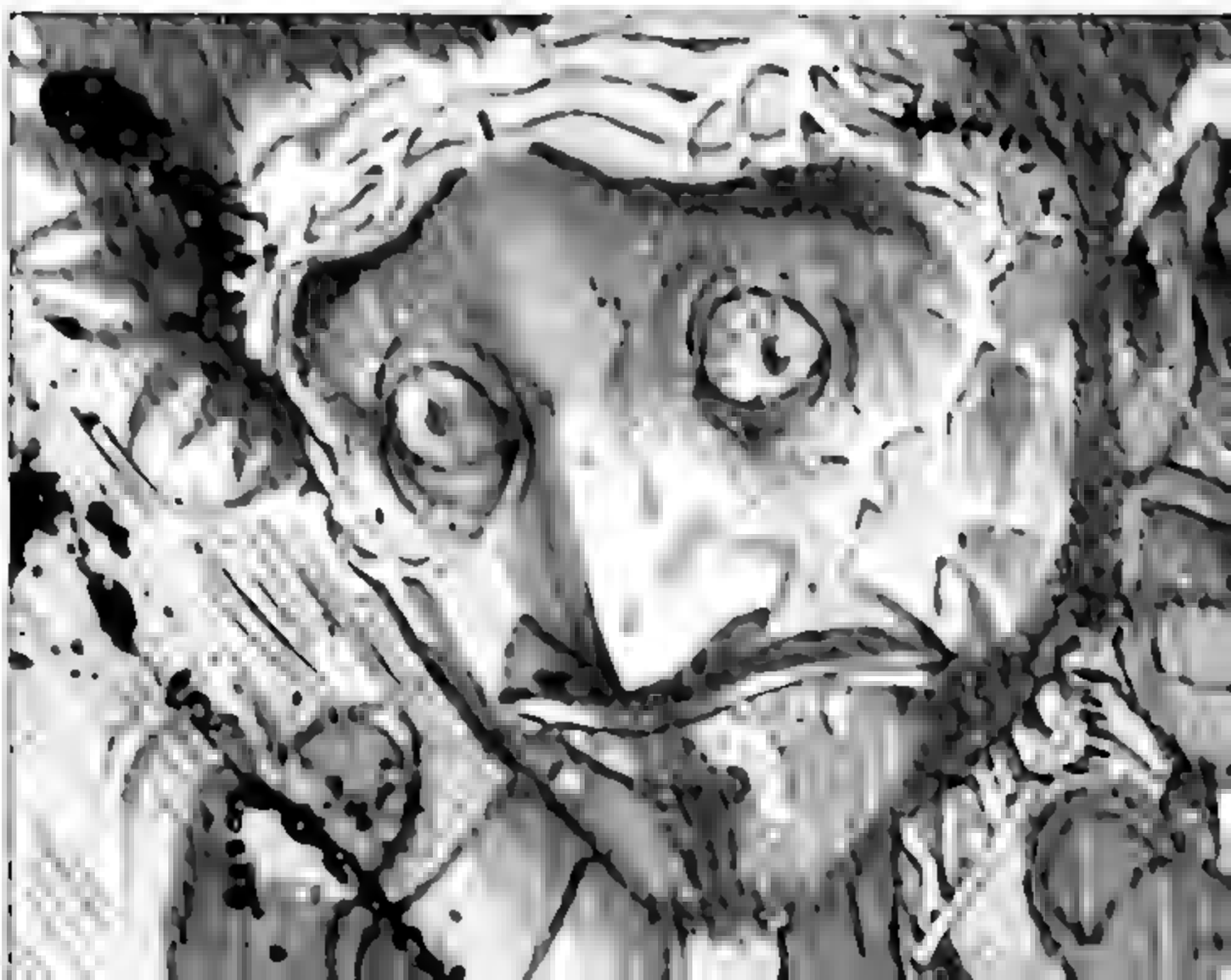

IT'S.... DARK.... I WAS....
I WAS SO CLOSE.... YET,
IF I COULD GET OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER AND....
THE REVOLUTION WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED....

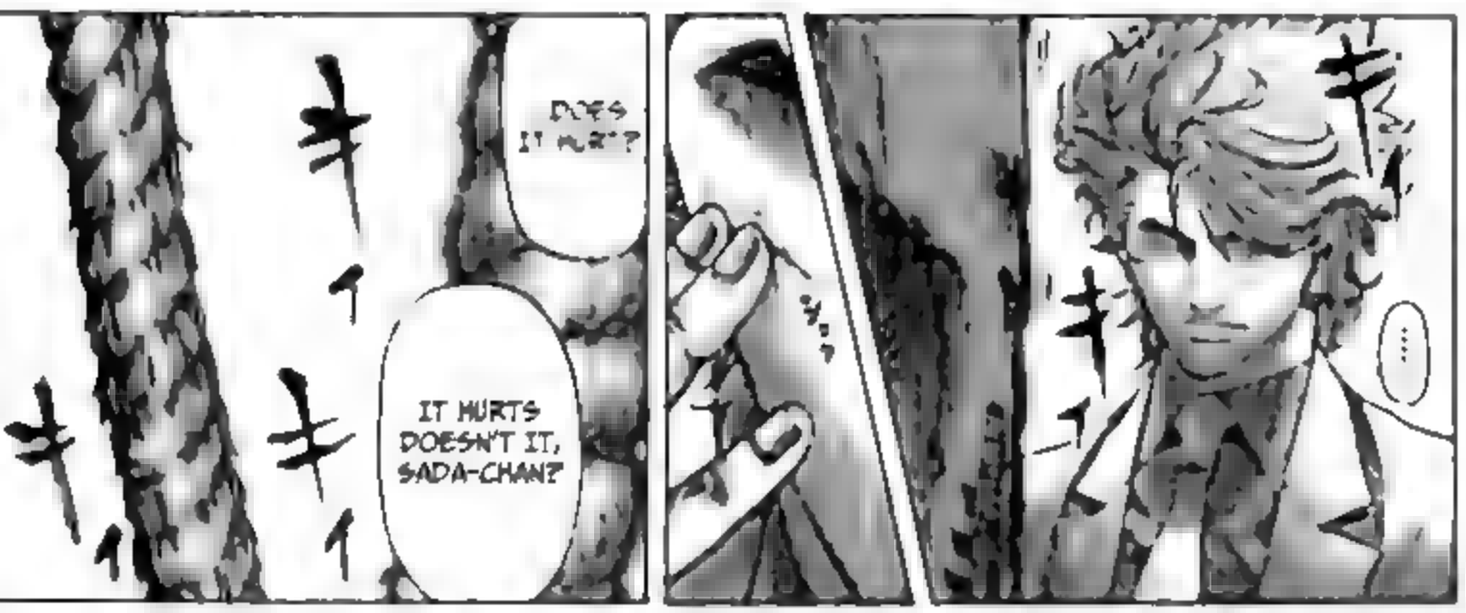

UU UU GH!
RU GH!
UHH!
AA UH!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
.....
AS... AS IF I COULD - DIE ...
AT A PLACE LIKE THIS! DAMN IT!
MU URG H!
.....

FU...
F...
AFTER ALL THAT...
YOU BECOME SUCH A DIS... GRACE...
WHAT THE HELL!?
FUCK... YOU...
ALL THIS... FOR...?
WHAT THE FUCK... WAS I DOING...

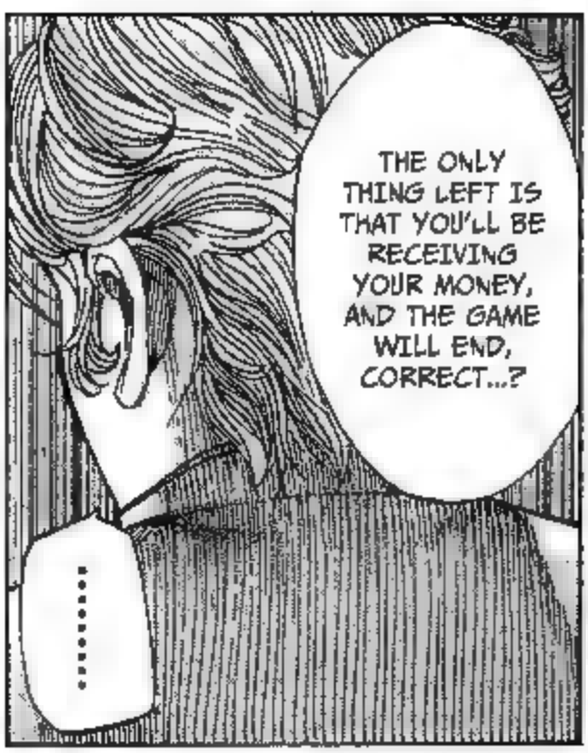




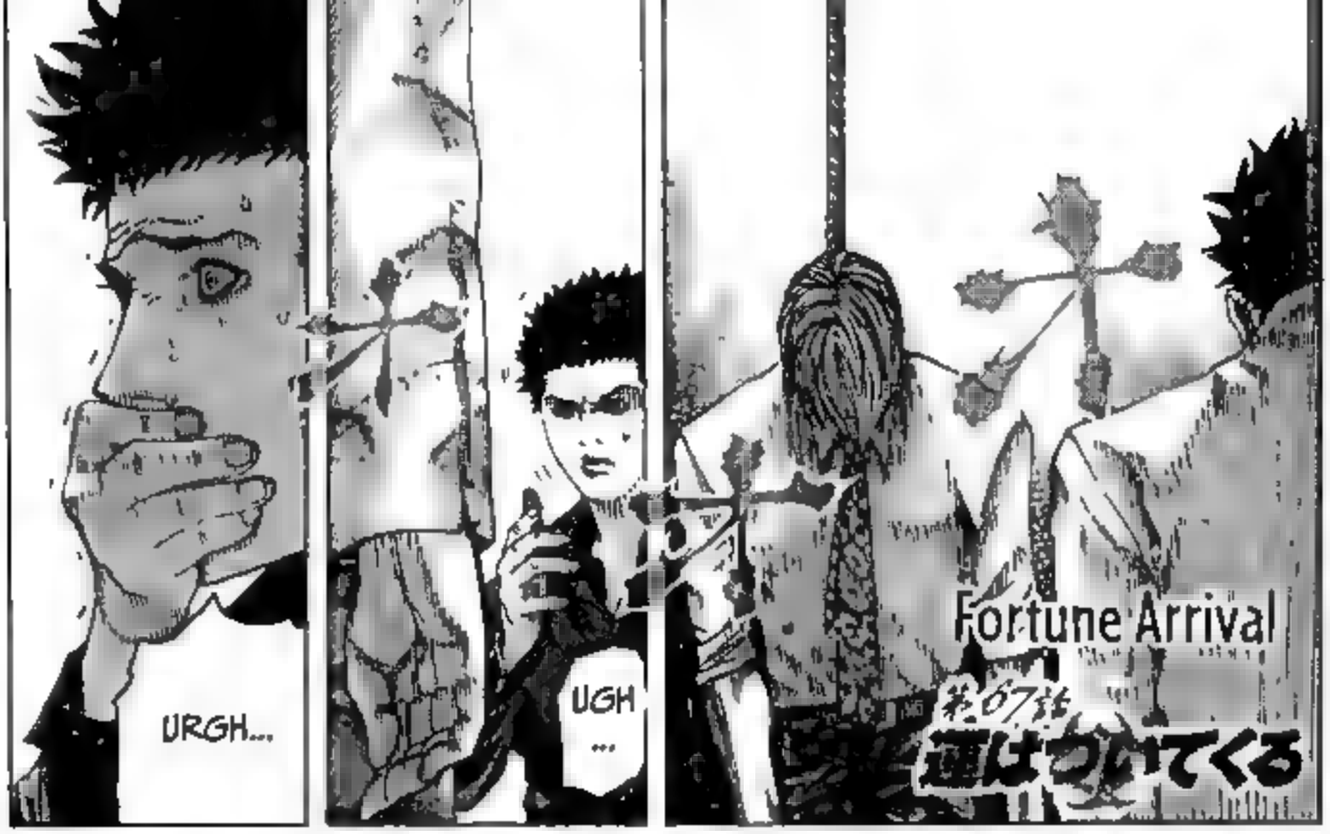

DOES IT HURT?
IT HURTS DOESN'T IT, SADA-CHAN?
SAD
.....

I WON'T LET YOU DIE AS A MONSTER.
AT LEAST, DIE AS A HUMAN... OKAY?

HE TURNED A RELIGIOUS FANATIC WHO HAD NO FEAR OF DEATH BACK TO AN ORDINARY HUMAN IN HIS VERY LAST MOMENTS...
WHAT IS HE... THE DEVIL?


THE ONLY THING LEFT IS THAT YOU'LL BE RECEIVING YOUR MONEY, AND THE GAME WILL END, CORRECT...?
.....

PHEW... AT LAST IT'S OVER.
YOU ARE FREE TO BE CHARMED BY THE MEMBERS, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE CHOSEN THE RIGHT ONE, MEKAMA.
DID THE REFEREES' STANDARDS FALL DOWN LATELY...? WELL, SETTING THAT ASIDE,


URGH...
UGH ...
Fortune Arrival
第67話
運はついてくる

NOT JUST ONE, BUT TWO PEOPLE DIED... RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
THEY WERE ALIVE A MOMENT AGO... THEIR VOICES COULD BE HEARD, BUT NOW. .
THEY'RE. DEAD .

THIS WAS...
THE LAST DAY OF A PERSON WHO BETS ON EVERYTHING IN A GAMBLE... INCLUDING HIS LIFE.
NOW THEN, KAJI-SAMA... BAKU-SAMA...

FROM THE HANGMAN WINNINGS OF ONE BILLION YEN,
30% HAS BEEN ALLOCATED BACK LEAVING YOU WITH 248.8 MILLION YEN.
第67話
運はついてくる
Fortune Arrival

PLEASE CON-FIRM THE AMOUNT.
HERE
.....
I... IS IT OKAY... TO ACCEPT THIS MONEY...?
WON'T THE CONFIS-CATION REGARDING BAKU-SAN'S LIFE BE PUT INTO ACTION AS SOON AS I TAKE THE MONEY?
WE'LL TAKE THIS MONEY FOR SURE,
BUT ...
IT'S NOT ENOU-GH...

AH-
AND THE MISSILES WEREN'T LAUNCHED... WHICH MEANS HALF OF OUR MONEY IS MISSING...
WE HAD OUR PER-SONAL BET...

RATHER THAN THINKING ABOUT THE MONEY,
IT'S PEACE-FUL LIKE THIS.
STOP IT RIGHT NOW!
NO, NOT THAT, BAKU-SAN!

SO WHAT THE HELL IS HE THINKING?
ISN'T THIS SITUATION THE LEAST BIT FRIGHT-ENING!?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY ALLIES IN HERE ANY-MORE.
OBVIOUSLY ENDING IT LIKE THIS WOULD BE BEST,
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE...

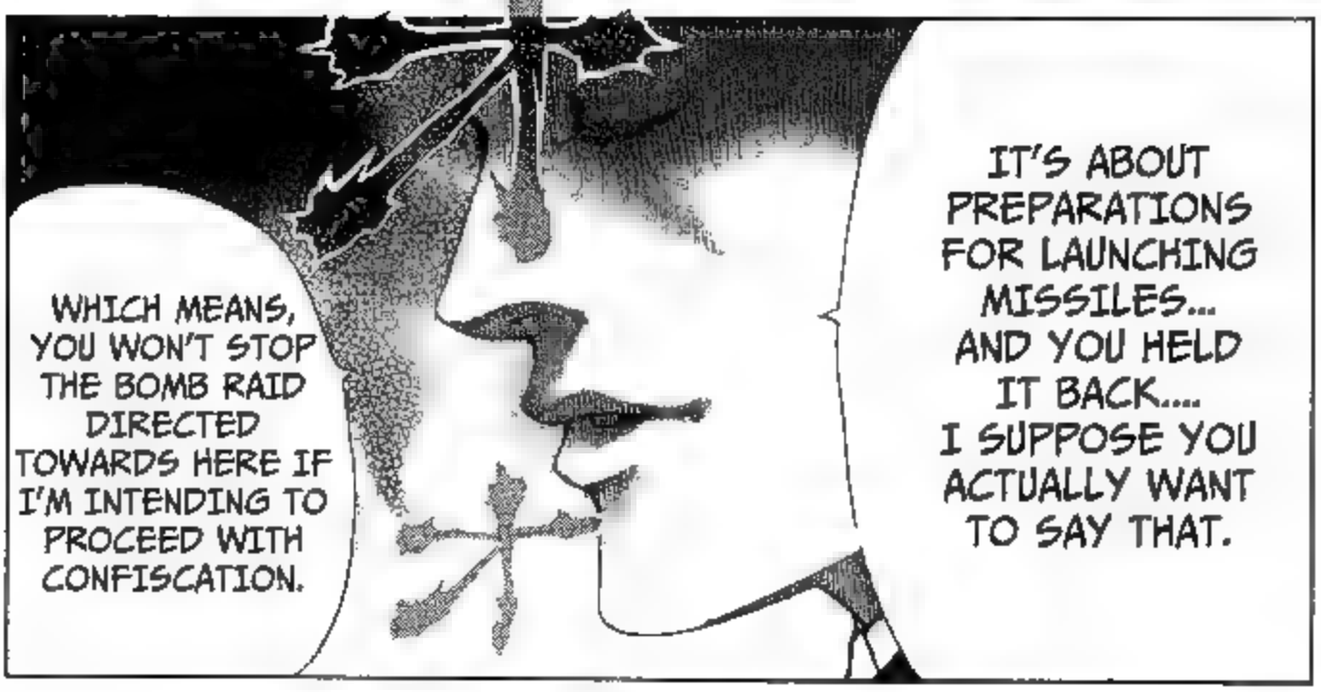
I'LL PAY BACK KURAMA-SAN AS WELL...
HOW-EVER,
REGAR-DING THAT PERSONAL GAMBLE OF OURS... I ADMIT MY LOSS...
OH, OF COURSE I'LL PAY UP!
THIS IS MY PERSONAL GAMBLE, SO I HAVE TO PAY MY LOSS FROM MY OWN MONEY.
IN OTHER WORDS, I'M A LITTLE EMPTY HANDED RIGHT NOW.
SO, WHAT CAN I SAY...
AND IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT I HAD ANOTHER BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF HERE...
I HAD ONLY ONE COMPANION WHEN I CAME,
I'LL PAY IT WHEN I CARRY ENOUGH CASH WITH ME...
NO WAY!
I'LL MAKE A MONEY TRANSFER... OTHER-WISE,
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT? CALL THIS MY NATURE, OR ONE OF MY PRINCIPLES THAT I DON'T WANT TO BREAK.

IF YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE THE MONEY ON YOU, THEN DON'T TAKE ON THE GAMBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE! NO ONE WILL WAIT LIKE THAT.
PAYING UP STRAIGHT AWAY IS STANDARD WHEN LOSING A GAMBLE, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY MATTER THOUGH.

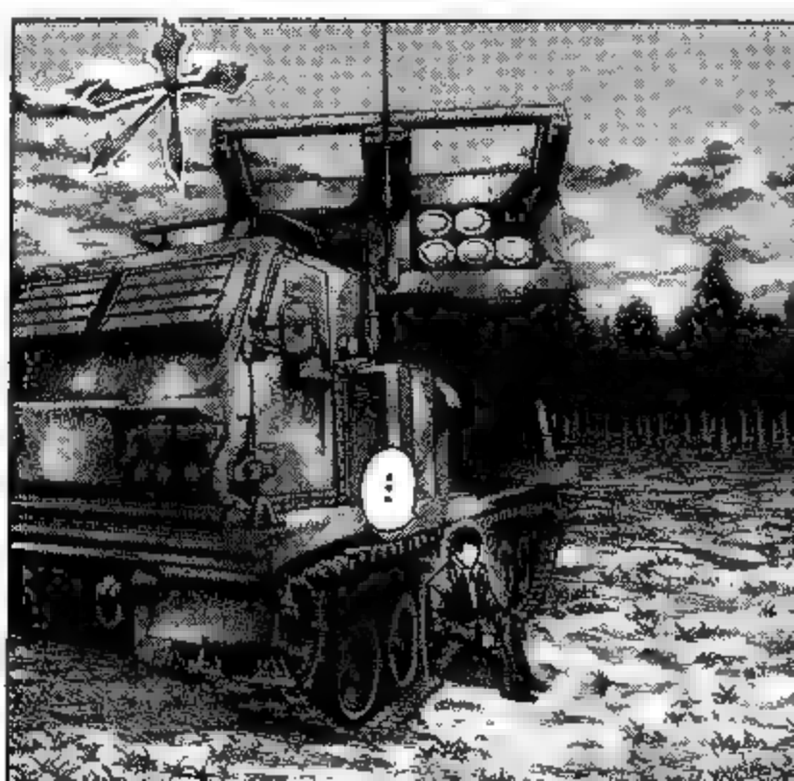
.....
EVEN IF YOU DON'T PAY ME BACK, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT... RIGHT?
BUT THIS WAS A PERSONAL GAMBLE AFTER ALL...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING!?
IT'LL BE YOUR OWN LIFE!
CONFISCATION WILL TAKE PLACE RIGHT AWAY!

I SEE...
I UNDER-STAND, WHY YOU HAVE SUCH A STUBBORN BEHAVIOR, WHILE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW...
WHETHER YOUR LIFE WILL BE TAKEN AS CONFISCATION OR NOT...


IT'S ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR LAUNCHING MISSILES... AND YOU HELD IT BACK.... I SUPPOSE YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO SAY THAT.
WHICH MEANS, YOU WON'T STOP THE BOMB RAID DIRECTED TOWARDS HERE IF I'M INTENDING TO PROCEED WITH CONFISCATION.

I'LL WAIT HERE AND PROTECT IT...
I WON'T ...
LET THE MISSILES BE LAUN-CHED...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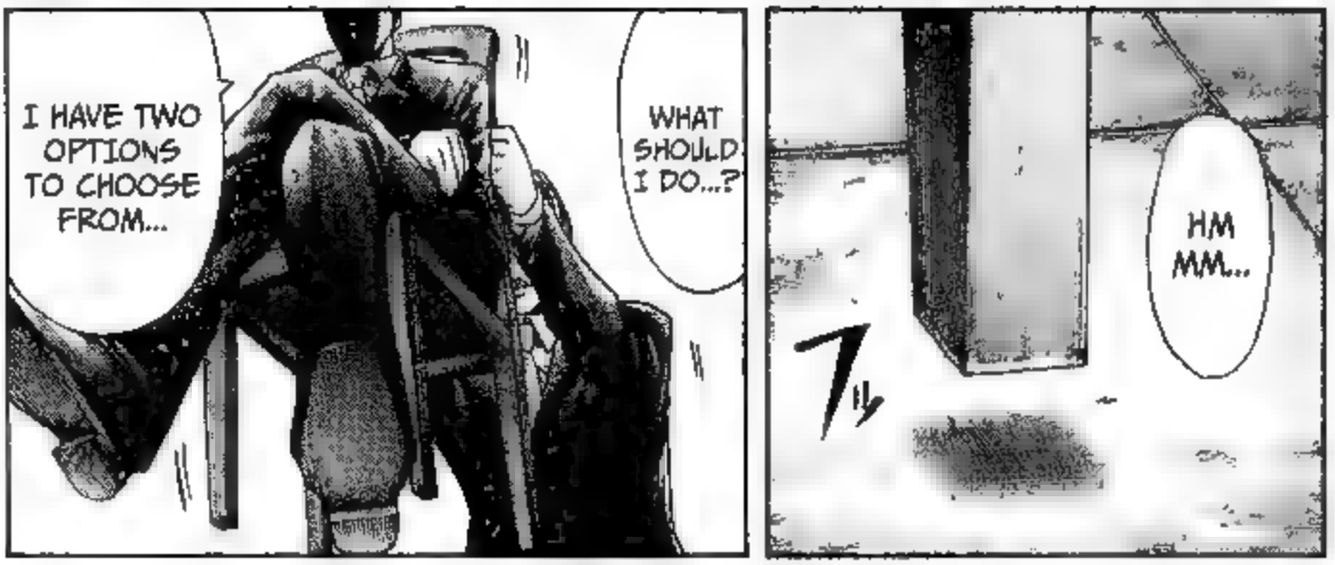
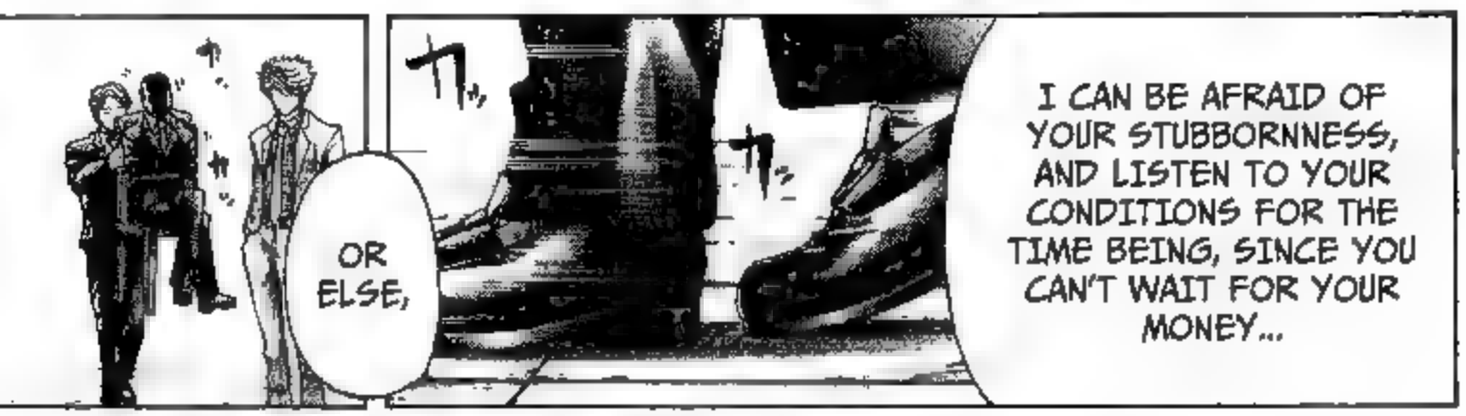

I HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
HM MM...


OR ELSE,
I CAN BE AFRAID OF YOUR STUBBORNNESS, AND LISTEN TO YOUR CONDITIONS FOR THE TIME BEING, SINCE YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR MONEY...

AND STRANGLE YOU TO DEATH RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
MY OTHER OPTION... I CAN JUDGE YOUR STUBBORN-NESS AS A MERE BLUFF...

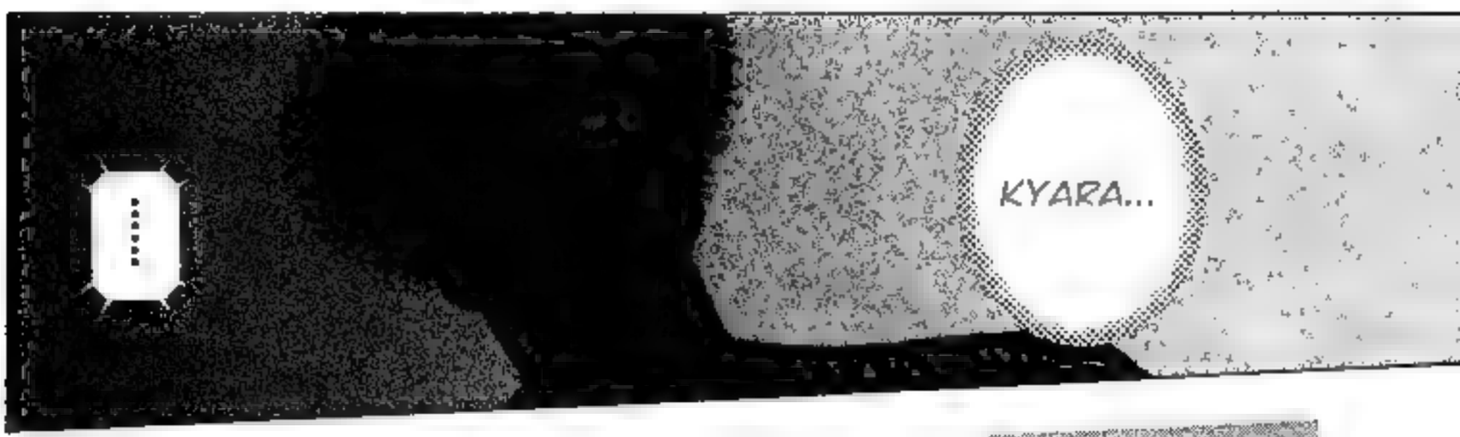
FORTUNE FOLLOWS ...
.....
THOSE WITH THE PROPER JUDGMENT.
NEVER BEFORE ...
HAVE I EVER MISJUDGED THIS KIND OF A CASE... NEVER.

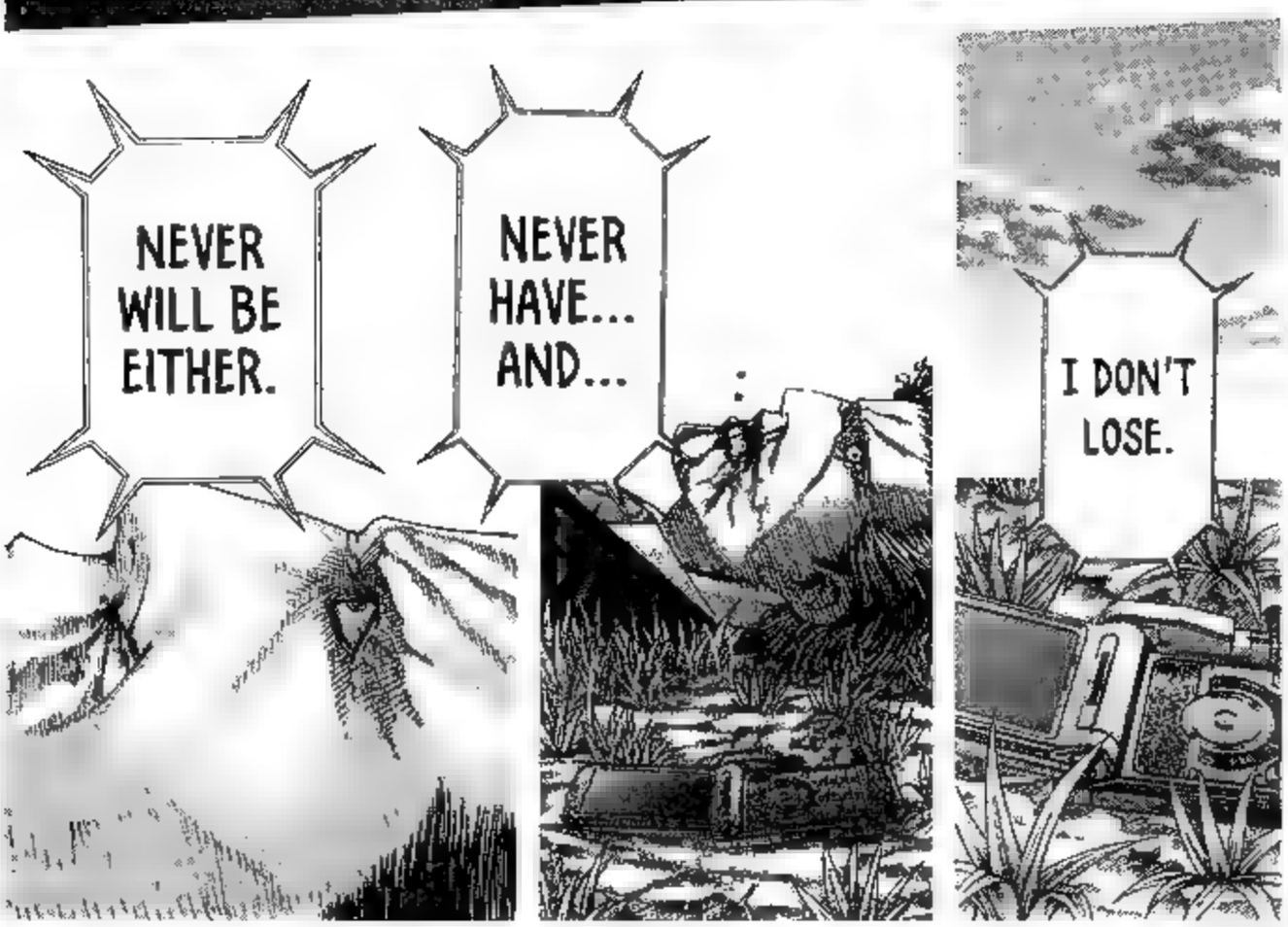
I HAVE MADE,
MY DECISION ...
OOH ...

ARE YOU TRULY SATISFIED WITH THIS?
ABOUT USOGUI'S... ABOUT CLOSING THE AGREEMENT...
UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS...?
...
MHMM! PROBABLY...
I'M GLAD TO HAVE MADE THAT DECISION...
THOUGH, IT'S STILL IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO AIM THE MISSILES AT HERE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...
.....
THEN, WHY?
!
I SEE ...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

HMPH... TWO LOSERS ALIKE... GETTING ALONG... AND ROLLING AROUND...
THAT'S FINE, KYARA... I'LL LET IT SLIP FOR NOW.
HOWEVER, YOU ABANDONED KAKEROU...
NEVER FORGET THAT YOUR LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE UNDER THREAT.


.....
KYARA...

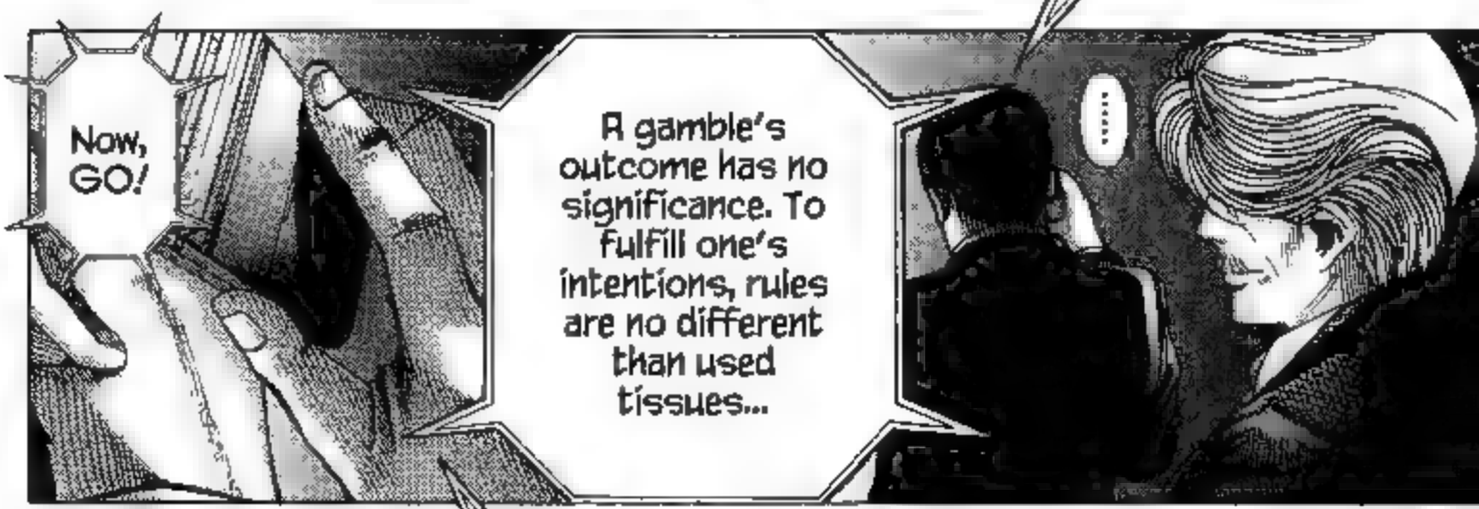

NEVER WILL BE EITHER.
NEVER HAVE... AND...
I DON'T LOSE.

THE FOREVER VICTORIOUS... AND SUPPOSEDLY NONEXISTENT...
GAMBLER.
I WILL LET YOU SEE...
TCH
UGH
AT ANY RATE...
TWO LOSERS ALIKE... GETTING ALONG, EH...?
HMPH!
IN REALITY, IT'S RUDE TO USE PEOPLE WITHOUT WARNING, USOGUI...
SIZZLE
IT WENT RATHER WELL THIS TIME, BUT...

HELLO?
RRRRR
.....
RRRRRR
?
YOU...? ARE YOU...
...THE ONE KNOWN AS THE LEADER?

WHO... ARE YOU...? HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?
?
You should be the one called "the leader", right?
I was thinking of discussing various things with you, however
Not only were my intentions crushed so openly, but just in time too...
Just assume that I have that kind of power.
Right! I only need to wish for your number, and I end up knowing it...
!
My tool, the weapons smuggler Karl, did not accomplish his mission to launch the missiles.
This is only possible with your organiza-tion's power.
#68
Secret Ambition

The gambling organization dominating the darkness of Japan known as Kakerou... Aren't you something like the leader?
.....
From this conversation... you can easily guess that I am involved with those speculative stocks...


Now, GO!
A gamble's outcome has no significance. To fulfill one's intentions, rules are no different than used tissues...
.....

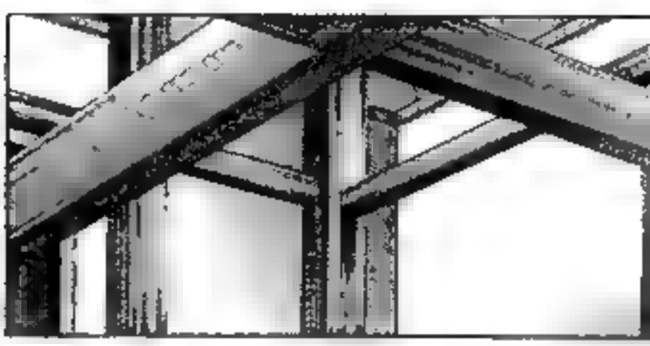
LAUNCH THE MISSILES!

And...

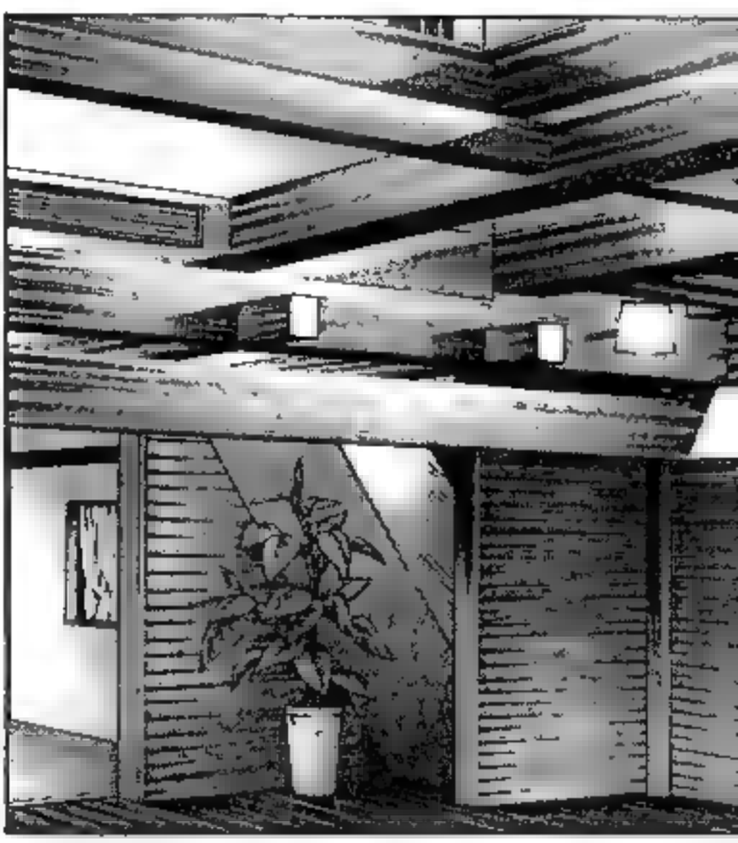
第68話
SECRET AMBITION

TIME IS UN-CLEAR.

.....
LEADER, IT IS ALMOST TIME... YOU SHOULD GET READY...

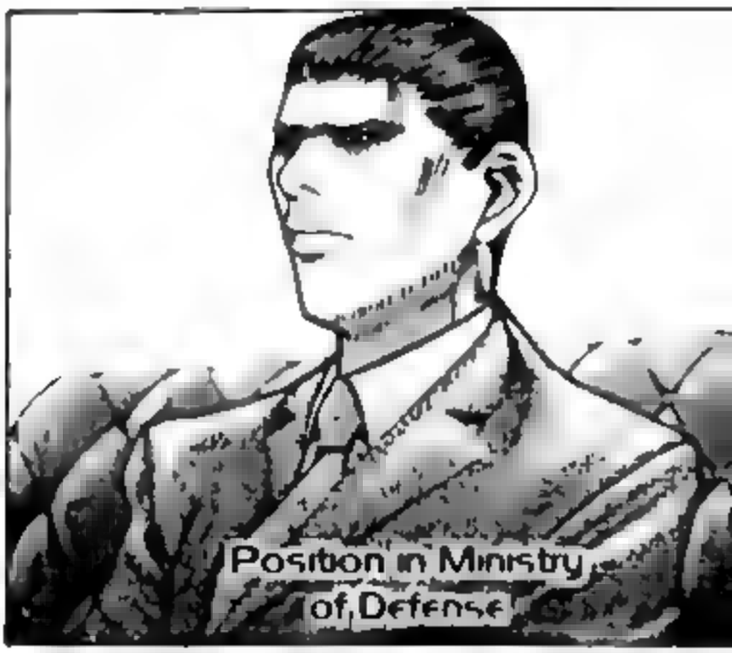


OOH~ WELL, WELL.



IT MAY BE INCONVENIENT FOR US, GUESTS, TO SAY BUT...
LOOK AT THIS PROMINENT LINEUP.

Position in Ministry of Foreign Affairs


Position in Ministry of Defense

Position in Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office

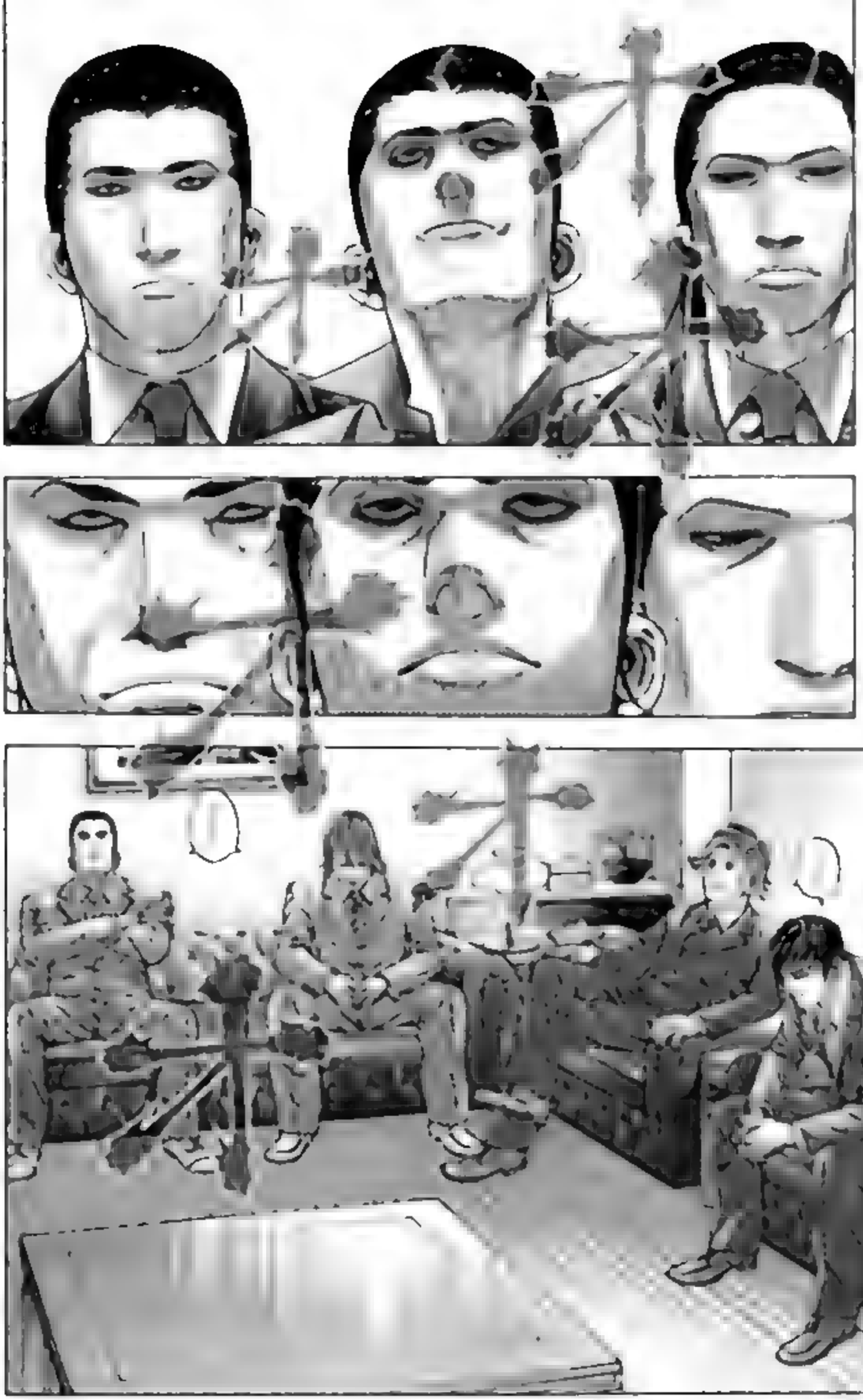
Position in Asamai Newspaper

THROUGH SECRET MEETINGS, WE CAN FORM A SWORN ALLIANCE AND PUT THE ONES WE WANT TO THE UPPER STAGES INSTEAD.
YOU MUST BE SLIGHTLY SHOCKED TO HEAR THIS...
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS, AS THE ELITE FOUR, WE SHALL AVIDLY DISCUSS THE COUNTRY AND POLITICS.

YOUNG ELITES OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE... HAH!
PROMOTED THREE PEOPLE AND CALLING YOURSELVES ELITES?
OH MY... LET'S LEAVE MODESTY FOR THE NEXT OCCA-SION.
HMPH!
ELITES, YOU SAY? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

THIS IS QUITE A SIGNIFICANT LINEUP... THE CHOSEN ONES, WHO WILL EVENTUALLY RISE UP TO THE POSITIONS WHERE THEY WILL RULE THE NATION... WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT...
YOU COULD WIN US OVER WITH SUCH HONOR?
WELL... NEVER-THELESS,

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU GUYS SCHEMING?
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
SO?



DON'T WORRY.
WE WON'T LAUGH THIS OFF...
ONLY A SCUM WITHOUT THE POWER TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN WOULD IN THIS SITUATION... BUT...
HEH ...
NO WAY... IT LOOKS LIKE... YOU'RE SERIOUS... BUT...

I CAN SEE THAT YOU WON'T RUN AROUND RECKLESSLY LIKE THEY DID IN THE FEBRUARY 26* INCIDENT...
YOU, YOUNG COMMISSIONERS, WHO ARE MOVED BY KITA IKKI'S "AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF JAPAN"...
YOU KNOW, EVEN WITH OUR CONNECTIONS... AND FULLY UTILIZING THE POWER OF MEDIA, IT STILL WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT.

"PROOFER'S NOTE: IT WAS A COUP D'ÉTAT IN 1936 ATTEMPTED BY 1,483 TROOPS OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY WHO BRIEFLY TOOK OVER THE CENTRE OF TOKYO. SOME LEADING POLITICIANS WERE KILLED DURING THAT TIME

ユラ
AS EXPE-CTED,

YOU GUYS ARE SHARP.

O...
!!

S...SUCH A BIG SHOT IS...
NO... WAY...
ONOKAMI MAKOTO, THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR GENERAL!

INSTEAD OF MANIPULATING THE CURRENT POLITICIANS...
HOW ABOUT WE RAISE A POLITICIAN OURSELVES TO RULE THE COUNTRY?
.....
HOW ABOUT IT EVERYONE...? WHY NOT LET ME INTO THIS CONVERSATION, TOO?

A BRAND NEW ORGANIZATION THAT WILL POSSESS POWER EVEN ABOVE THE POLICE.
WE CAN START A NEW ORGANIZATION THAT BOTH SUPPORTS THE COUNTRY AND INSPECTS POLICE;
CORRUPTED COPS ARE AT SUCH A LEVEL THAT EVEN THE PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATION THEY BELONG TO IS INCAPABLE OF CLEANING THEM UP.

FROM SOMETHING THAT CAN AFFECT THE STRONG INFLUENTIAL POWER OF THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION.
AN OPPORTU-NITY SHOULD ARISE...
IT IS A FACT THAT THE POLICE CAN NOT PROTECT THIS COUNTRY IN THEIR PRESENT STATE... AS LONG AS THEIR INCOMPETENCE HOLDS TRUE, OUR PLAN WILL GO SMOOTHLY.

I SEE... THAT SOUNDS INTERE-STING...
.....

MAYBE, AN OPPORTU-NITY...
...
BUT STILL WE ARE... LACKING SOMETHING...?

TERRORISM... OR SOMETHING?
FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD BE...

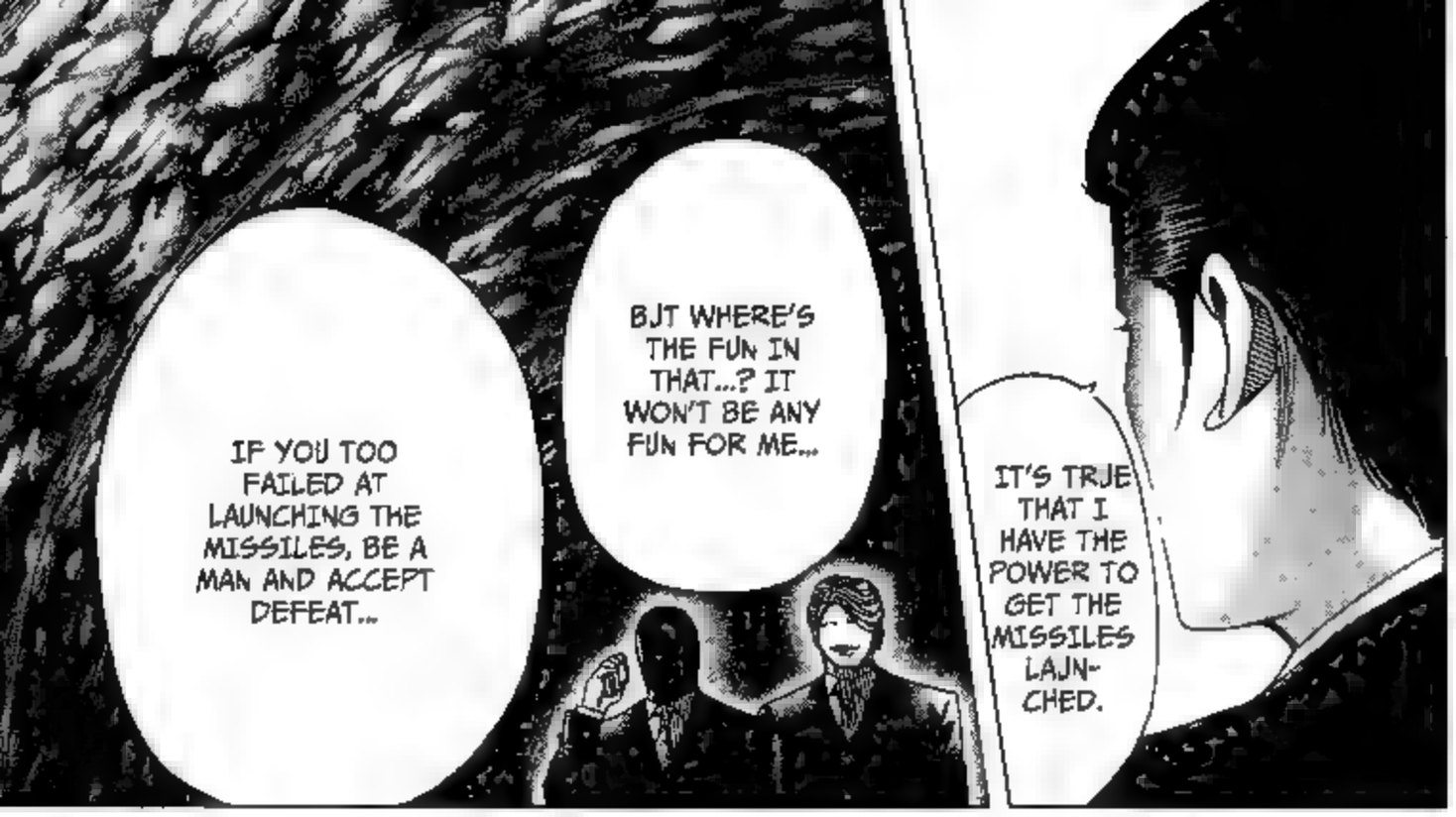
HAH... MAYBE NOT TO THAT EXTENT.

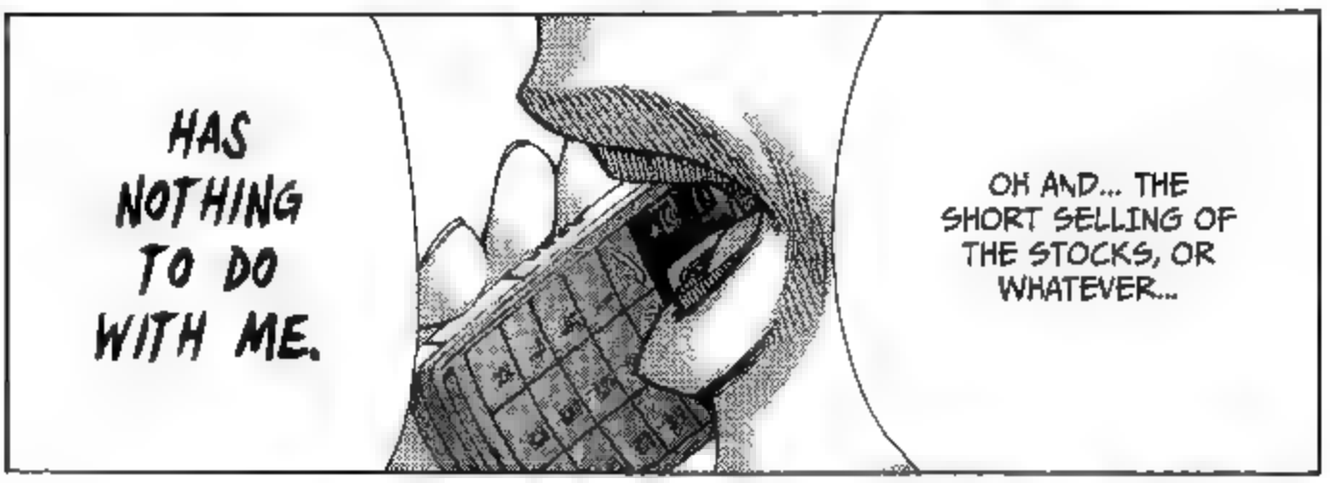
.....
...

HAHAH... LEAVING DELUSIONS ASIDE,
IT WILL WORK IF THE FOUR OF YOU MAKE YOUR PREPARATIONS PERFECTLY... SIMPLE AS THAT.

BUT, I SUPPOSE ...
WERE USED IN THIS COUNTRY... IF IT BECAME A FACT THAT TERRORISM WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THOSE WEAPONS... THEN ITS RUMORS WOULD DEFINITELY ADD TO ITS SENSE OF REALITY...
IF MISSILES, ROCKETS OR WHAT-EVER,

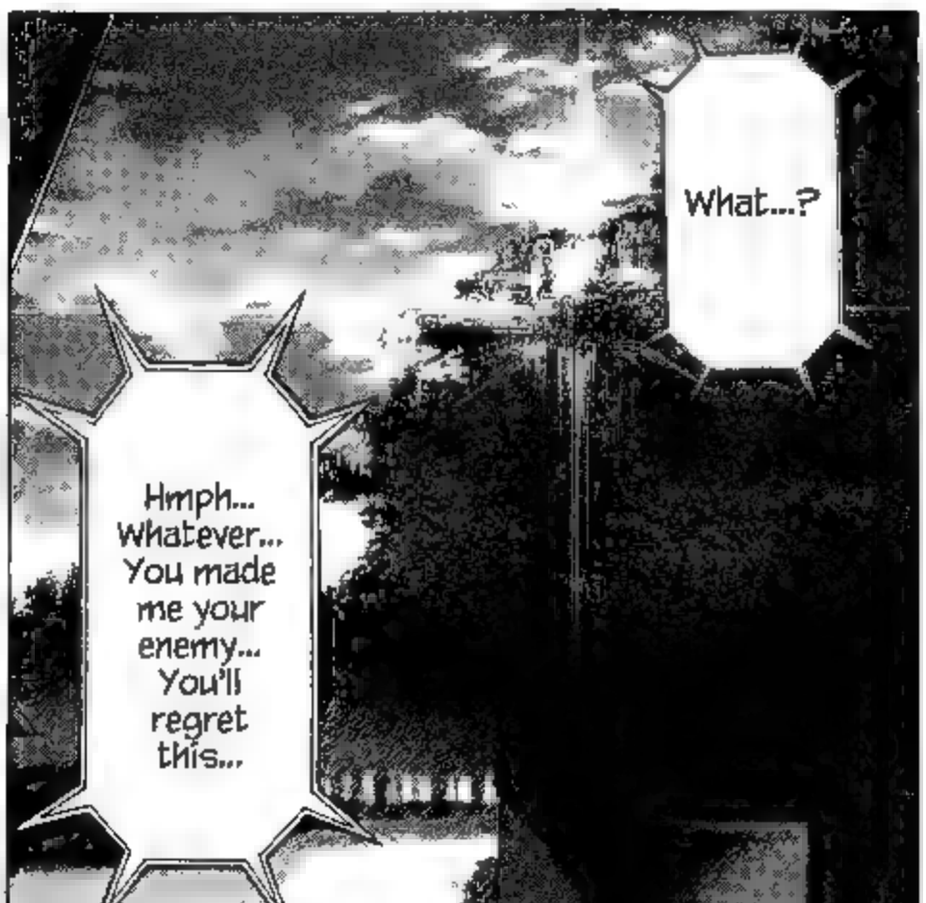
WHAT THE...?!
I REFUSE
LAUNCH-ING THE MISSILES EH...? UMMM...
HMM...
AT THE MOMENT... THERE IS A RULE THAT I IMPOSED ON MYSELF. YOU CAN SAY THAT I AM PERSONALLY ACTING ACCORDING TO THAT RULE...

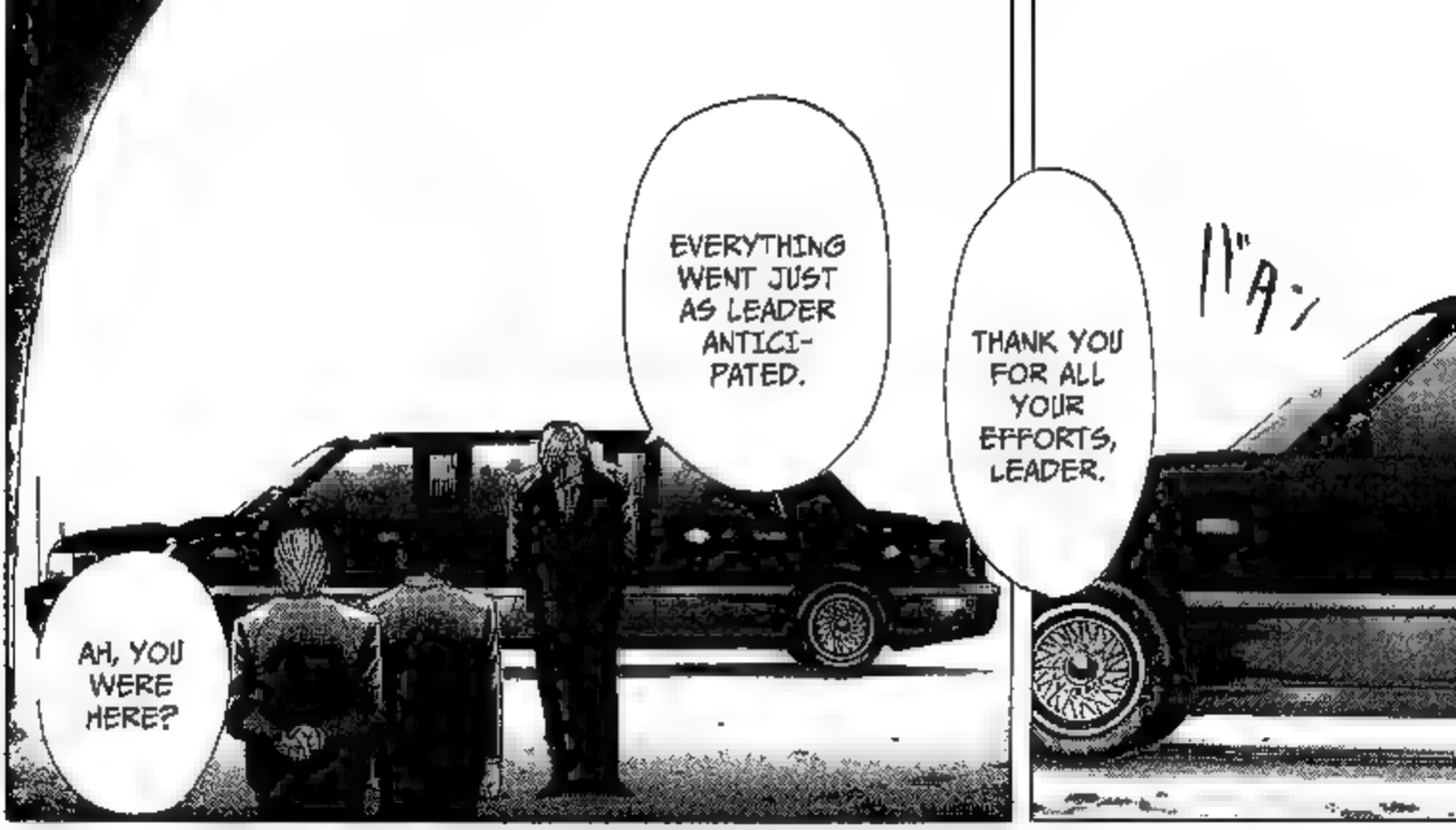

IF YOU TOO FAILED AT LAUNCHING THE MISSILES, BE A MAN AND ACCEPT DEFEAT...
BJT WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT...? IT WON'T BE ANY FUN FOR ME...
IT'S TRUE THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO GET THE MISSILES LAUN-CHED.


HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
OH AND... THE SHORT SELLING OF THE STOCKS, OR WHATEVER...

"/ "/
.....

DROP


What...?
Hmph... Whatever... You made me your enemy... You'll regret this...


AH, YOU WERE HERE?
EVERYTHING WENT JUST AS LEADER ANTICI-PATED.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS, LEADER.

THE CONFIRMED IMPACTS OF THE PROJE-CTILES COVERED VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
YES... ABOUT THE MZ6 ROCKETS,
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR GENERAL ONOKAMI-SAN... HOW DID IT GO?

HMM.

WITH THIS, THOSE FOUR... NO, THREE PEOPLE,
AND THERE WILL BE A HUGE UPROAR ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
IN A SHORT WHILE, THE MEDIA WILL START SPREADING THE NEWS,
THEY WILL BE ON THE MOVE FOR LEADER'S GAME THAT HAPPENS ONCE A MONTH.

IF THIS WAS A REALITY...
IF MISSILES, ROCKETS OR WHATEVER,
WERE USED IN THIS COUNTRY... IF IT BECAME A FACT THAT TERRORISM WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THOSE WEAPONS..
I'VE INVOLVED MYSELF IN A BIZARRE GAMBLE.
...
...EVEN A SINGLE ROCKET WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME.
SADAKUNI-KUN...
WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT WILL BE MANIPULATED BY MY KAKEROU.
AND SO THIS MONTH'S GAME CONCLUDES... IT LOOKS LIKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL GO SMOOTHLY...

THIS IS HOW A REVOLUTION IS DONE.

第69話

Cheque Clearing Condition

WELL THEN, BAKU-SAMA...
YOUR WINNINGS OF 248.8 MILLION...
WILL BE...
ALLOTTED TO YOU.
IS THAT ALRIGHT?

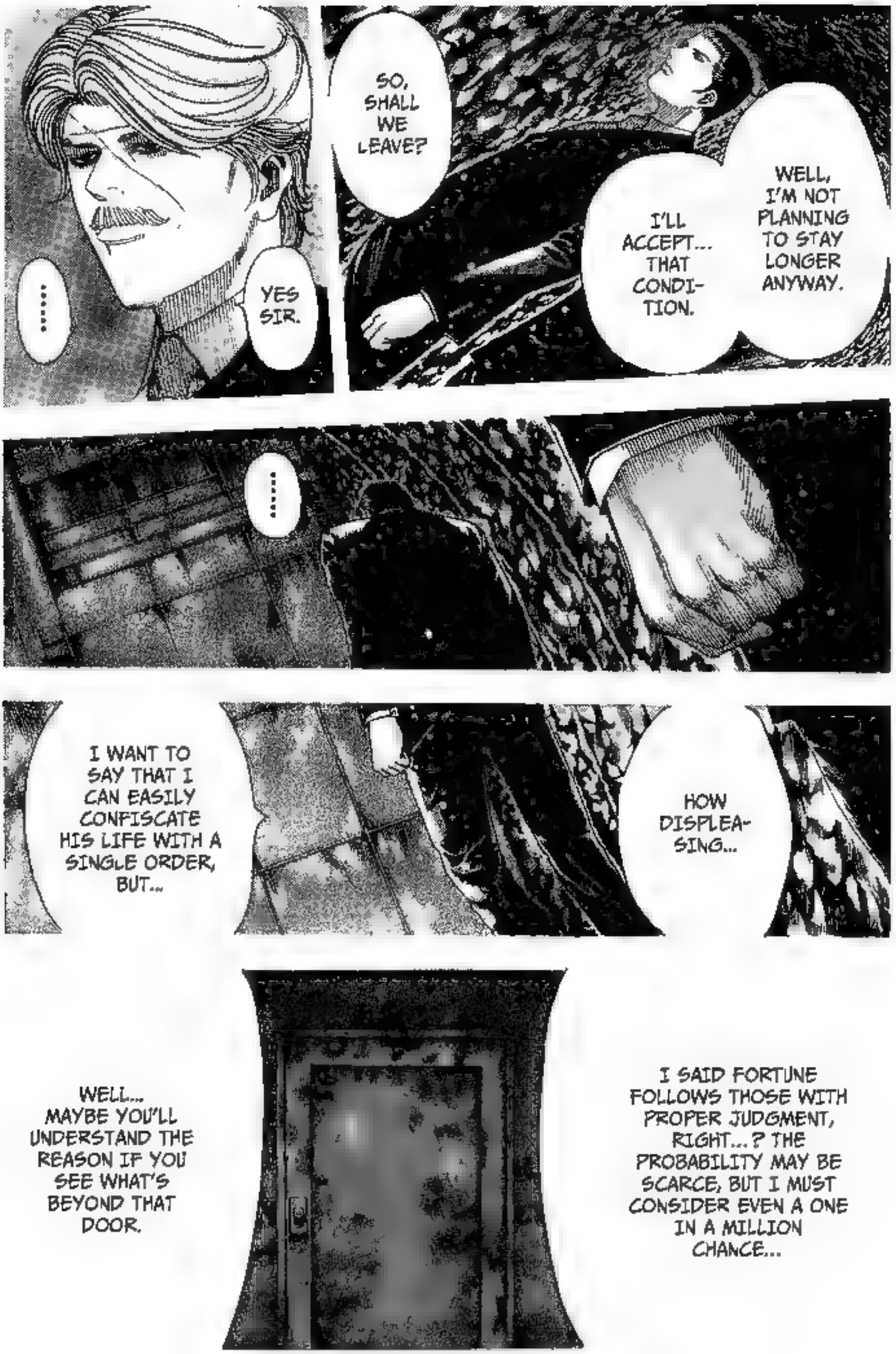
FORTUNE
...
WHY...?
NEVER BEFORE...
HAVE I EVER MISJUDGED THIS KIND OF A CASE
OHH..
FOLLOWS THOSE WITH PROPER JUDGMENT...
I'LL HEAR OUT AND EVALUATE...
YOUR CONDITION
...
I'VE DECIDED... FOR NOW,
.....

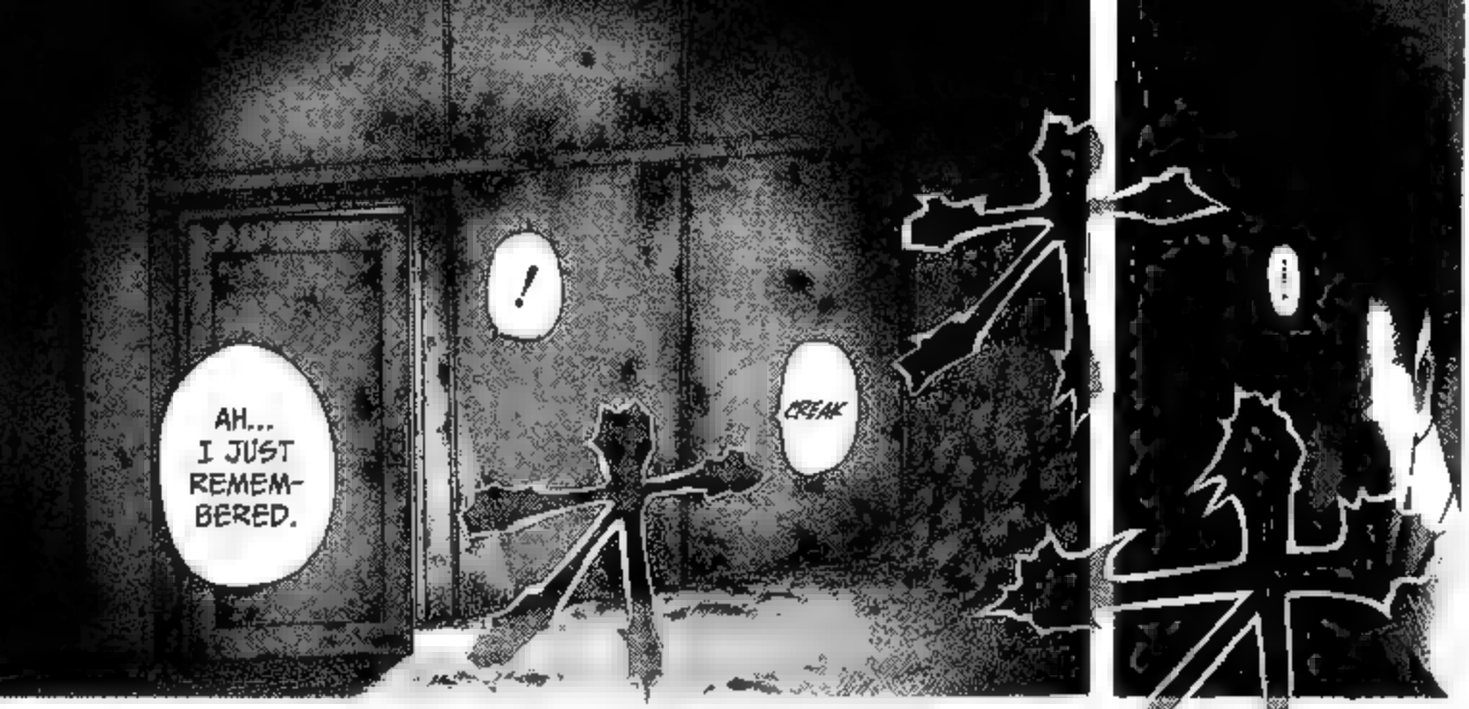
IN THE BEGINNING, I WASN'T PLANNING TO COME TO THE FOREFRONT,
.....
BUT MAYBE THIS IS SOME KIND OF FATE. EVEN IF I STAY IN THE SHADOWS, IT WILL NO LONGER WORK.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE SERIOUS ABOUT AIMING AT...
TO MAKE ME A KAKEROU MEMBER ONCE AGAIN.
IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL THAT, I WANT YOU...
WELL... IT'S NOT A DIFFICULT ONE, BUT...
AH YES...
.....
I WANT TO GIVE YOU MY EARNINGS FROM HANGMAN...
AND MY GAIN FROM OUR PERSONAL GAMBLE.
EH?

SURPASSING
THE LEADER.

YOU WOULD REQUEST CANCELLATION OF THE CONFISCATION OF YOUR LIFE.
HMPH... I WAS SO SURE THAT...
IS IT THAT...
I'M FORGET-TING AGAIN?*
AH, ABOUT THAT... HEY, COME ON...
SPIN
MAYBE BECAUSE YOU SEEM SORT OF FORGE-TFUL... BUT, HOW CAN I SAY THIS...
STAND
HE PROVOKED ME THIS MUCH... WHAT AN ANNOYING GUY...
YEAH...
THAT'S EXACTLY IT..

*PROOFER'S NOTE: IF YOU GO BACK TO CH 67, SOUICHI SAYS "WHICH MEANS, YOU WON'T STOP THE BOMB RAID DIRECTED TOWARDS HERE IF I'M INTENDING TO PROCEED WITH CONFISCATION." SO USOGUI IS SAYING SOUICHI IS FORGETTING ABOUT THE ONE FACT KEEPING HIM SAFE FROM CONFISCATION. THAT IS, SOUICHI PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO GET BOMBED (POOR MARCO IS STILL ON STANDBY) IF HE TAKES USOGUI'S LIFE, AND HENCE THE REASON WHY USOGUI DIDN'T REQUEST CANCELLATION.

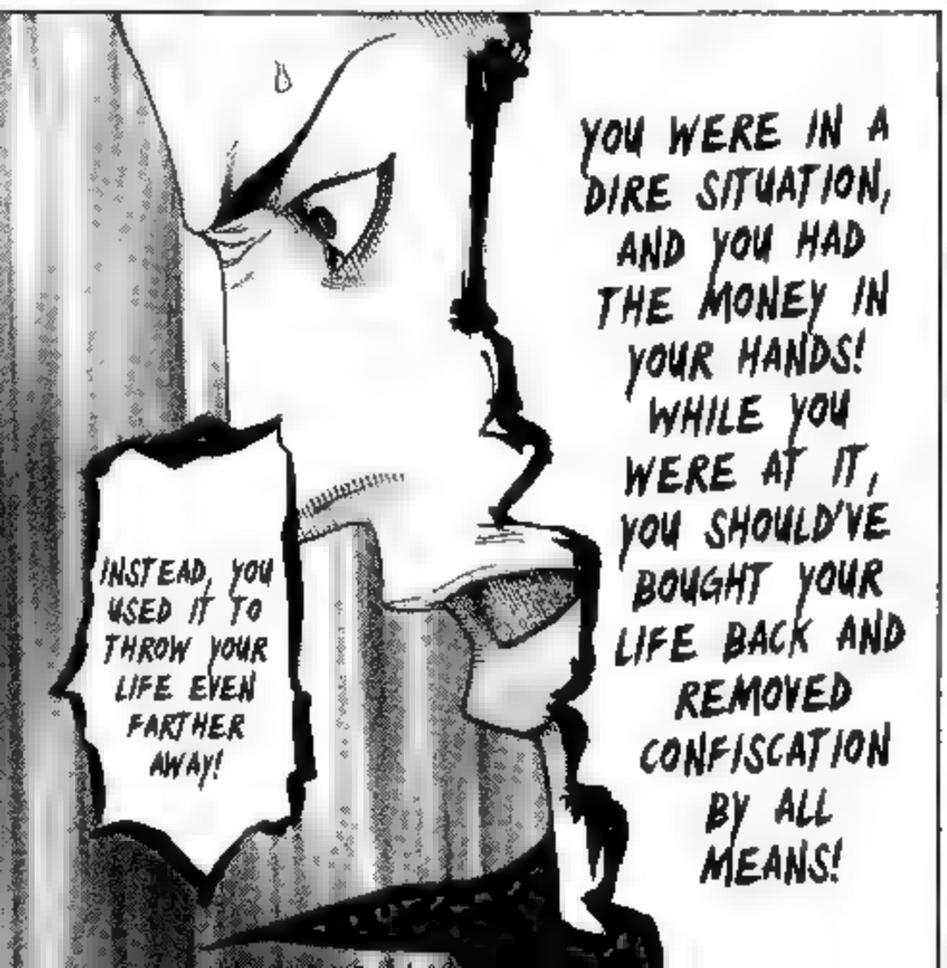

.....
YES SIR.
SO, SHALL WE LEAVE?
I'LL ACCEPT... THAT CONDI-TION.
WELL, I'M NOT PLANNING TO STAY LONGER ANYWAY.
.....
I WANT TO SAY THAT I CAN EASILY CONFISCATE HIS LIFE WITH A SINGLE ORDER, BUT...
HOW DISPLEA-SING...
WELL... MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THE REASON IF YOU SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THAT DOOR.
I SAID FORTUNE FOLLOWS THOSE WITH PROPER JUDGMENT, RIGHT...? THE PROBABILITY MAY BE SCARCE, BUT I MUST CONSIDER EVEN A ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE...


AH... I JUST REMEM-BERED.
!
CREAK
...

KAJI-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG...?
NEED THE TOILET.. TO GO PEE?

...JI-CHAN.
KAJI-CHAN?

SLAM


YOU WERE IN A DIRE SITUATION, AND YOU HAD THE MONEY IN YOUR HANDS! WHILE YOU WERE AT IT, YOU SHOULD'VE BOUGHT YOUR LIFE BACK AND REMOVED CONFISCATION BY ALL MEANS!
INSTEAD, YOU USED IT TO THROW YOUR LIFE EVEN FARTHER AWAY!

BAKU-SAN! WHY THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT?!
!

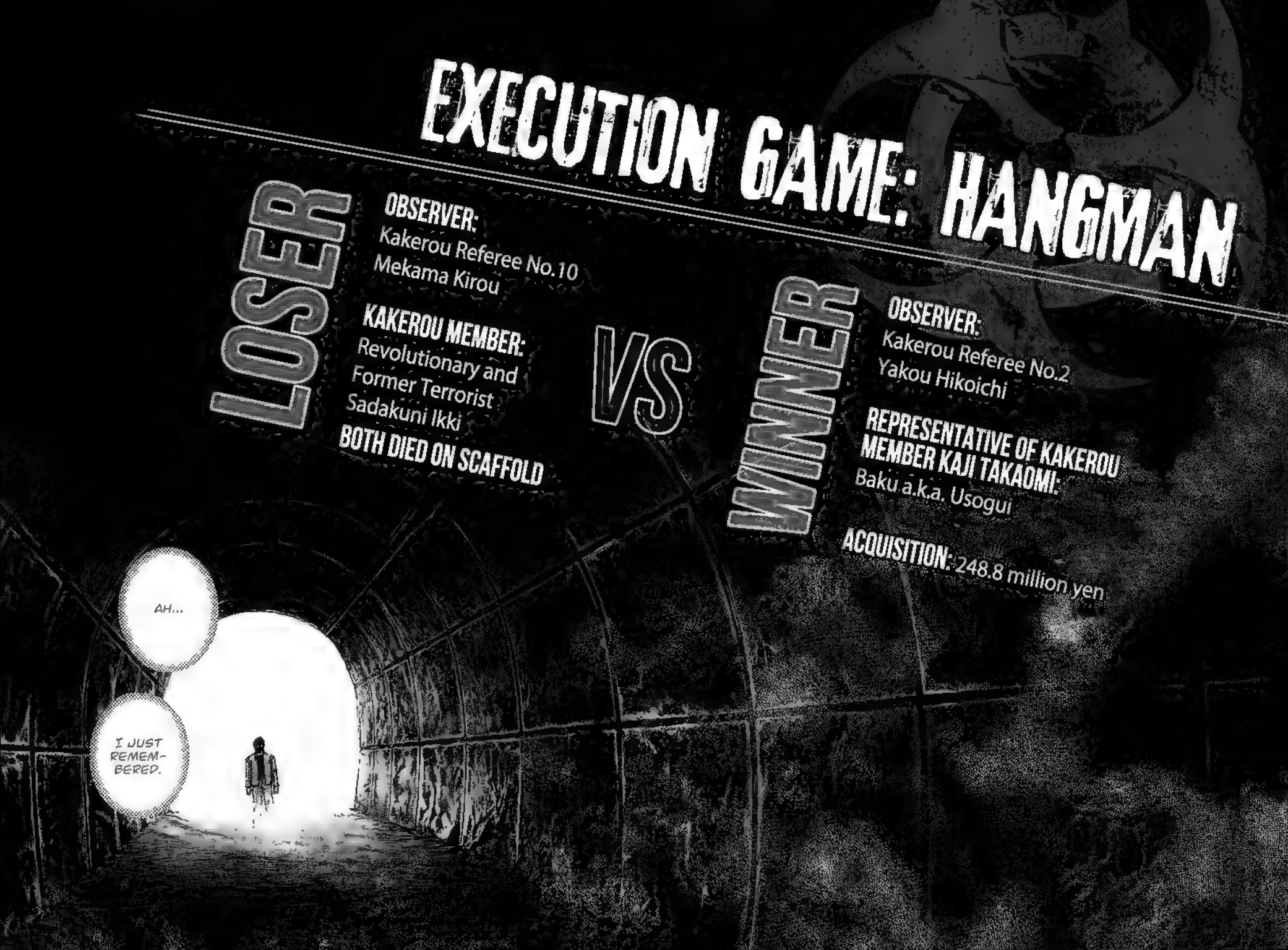
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT TO DO?! WHAT'S DRIVING YOU TO DO THIS?!
IF YOU TAKE ONE WRONG STEP, YOU KNOW YOU'D HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN, AND YET...!

HOWEVER, THIS TIME...
KAJI-CHAN.
WHEN YOU PURSUE SOMETHING, NATURALLY YOU MUST BET ON WHATEVER YOU HAVE.

SOMETHING THAT MY OWN LIFE WOULD ESSENTIALLY NEVER EQUATE TO... BESIDES...
.....
I ENDED UP PURSUING SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUSLY STUPID.

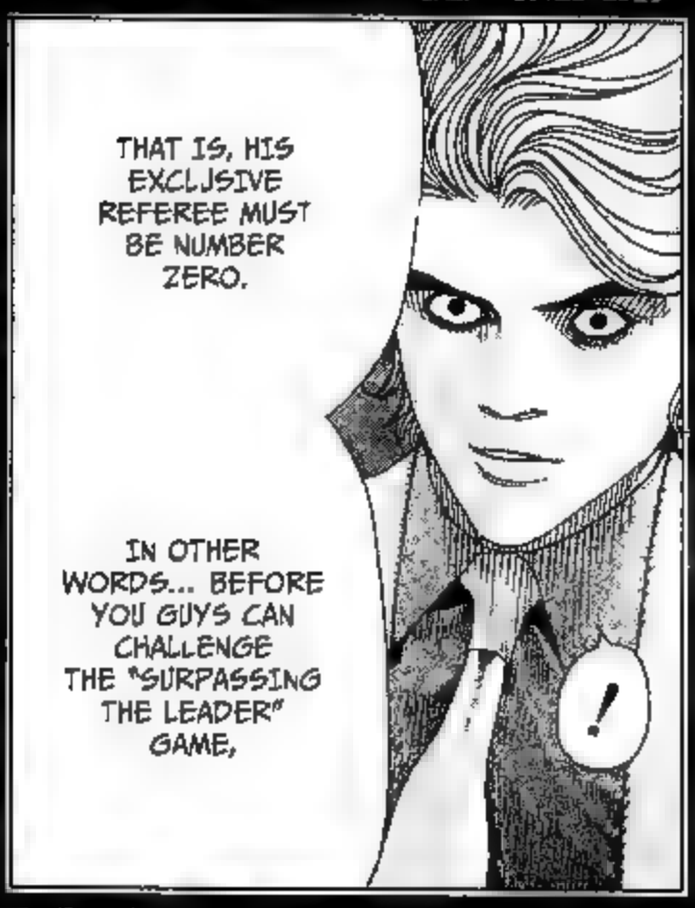
YOU COULD SAY THAT I FEEL SAFEST WHEN I'M IN A KAKEROU GAMBLE...

THE ABANDONED MINE TERRORIST ARC


EXECUTION GAME: HANGMAN
LOSER
OBSERVER:
Kakerou Referee No.10
Mekama Kirou
KAKEROU MEMBER:
Revolutionary and
Former Terrorist
Sadakuni Ikki
BOTH DIED ON SCAFFOLD
VS
WINNER
OBSERVER:
Kakerou Referee No.2
Yakou Hikoichi
REPRESENTATIVE OF KAKEROU MEMBER KAJI TAKAOMI:
Baku a.k.a. Usogui
ACQUISITION: 248.8 million yen
AH...
I JUST REMEMBERED.

LET ME TELL YOU THIS.
CREAK
YES, YES, THAT'S RIGHT... BEFORE I FORGET ABOUT IT AGAIN,

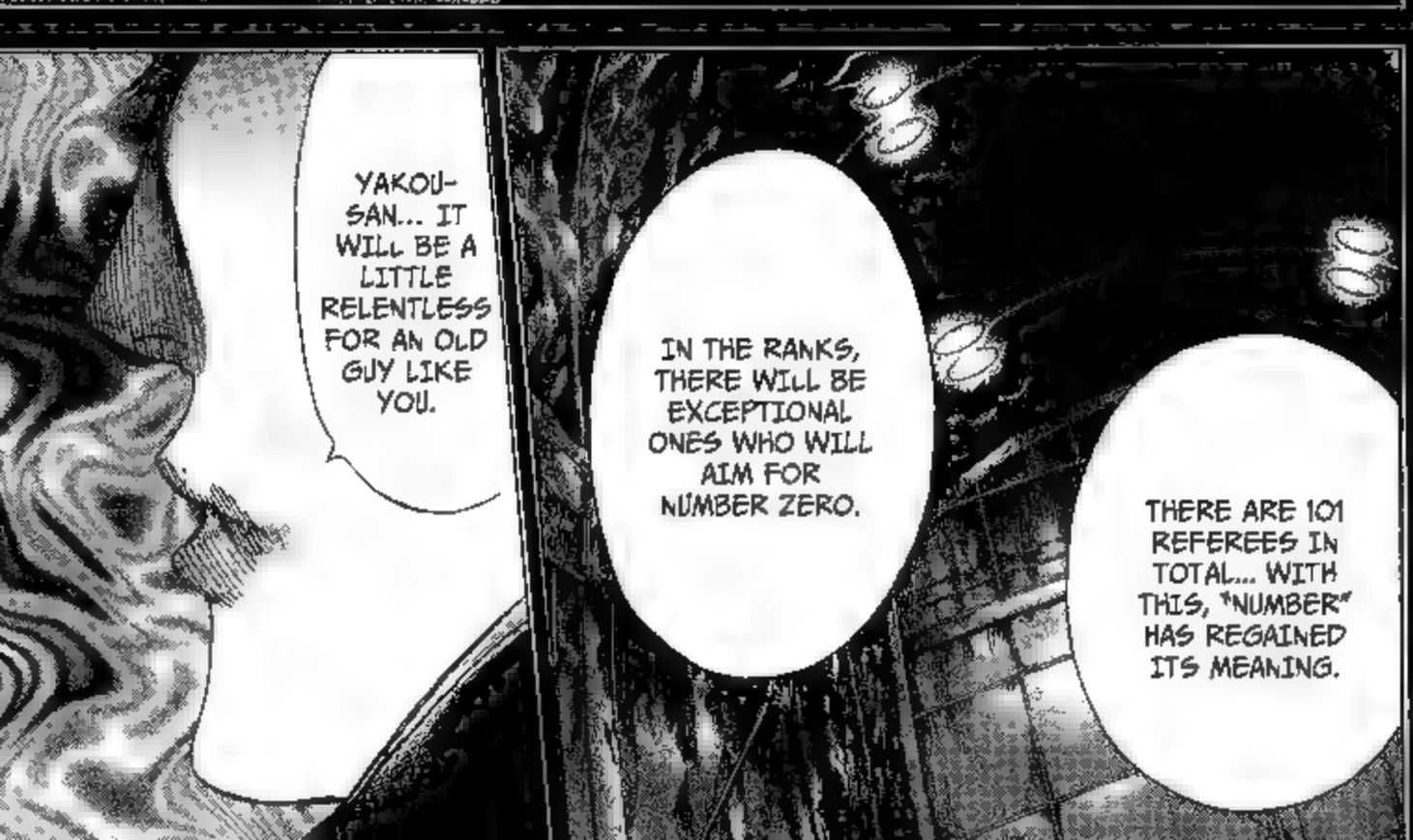
.....
HAD TO BE CHANGED BACK TO ITS TRADITIONAL SYSTEM AS WELL.
THE LEADER-SURPASSING GAME AUTOMA-TICALLY
WHEN THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS CHANGED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL SYSTEM,


THAT IS, HIS EXCLJSIVE REFEREE MUST BE NUMBER ZERO.
IN OTHER WORDS... BEFORE YOU GUYS CAN CHALLENGE THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" GAME,
!

THIS ONE WAS INVENTED BY THE FIRST GENERATION TOO...
Old things are good... They're all well made.
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, BEFORE A MEMBER CAN CHALLENGE "SJRPASSING THE LEADER" GAME... HE MJST SATISFY ONE CONDITION.

Number Zero

零号虎


YAKOU-SAN... IT WILL BE A LITTLE RELENTLESS FOR AN OLD GUY LIKE YOU.
IN THE RANKS, THERE WILL BE EXCEPTIONAL ONES WHO WILL AIM FOR NUMBER ZERO.
THERE ARE 101 REFEREES IN TOTAL... WITH THIS, "NUMBER" HAS REGAINED ITS MEANING.

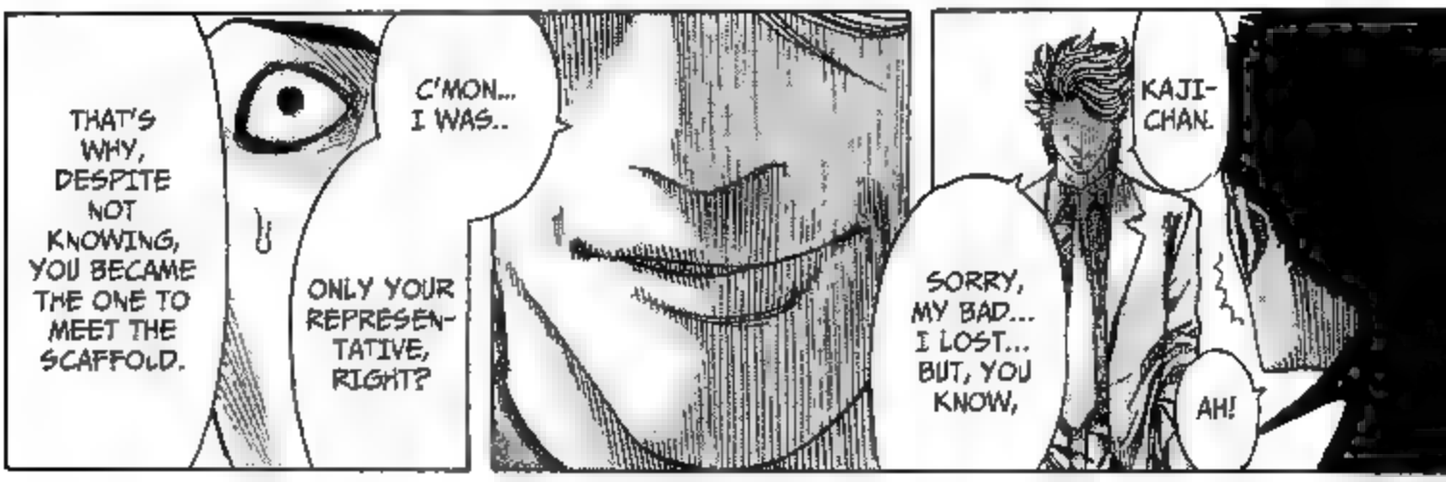
HEH... HEHEH... OH MAN...
JSOOJI-KUN, GO AHEAD AND SAY IT
BESIDES, I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH OF AN INTEREST IN S*REN*N FROM THE S*AR*
NATURALLY, SIR
.....
A-HA IN OTHER WORDS, YAKOU-SAN
?
HE'S SAYING YOU ARE A LIAR

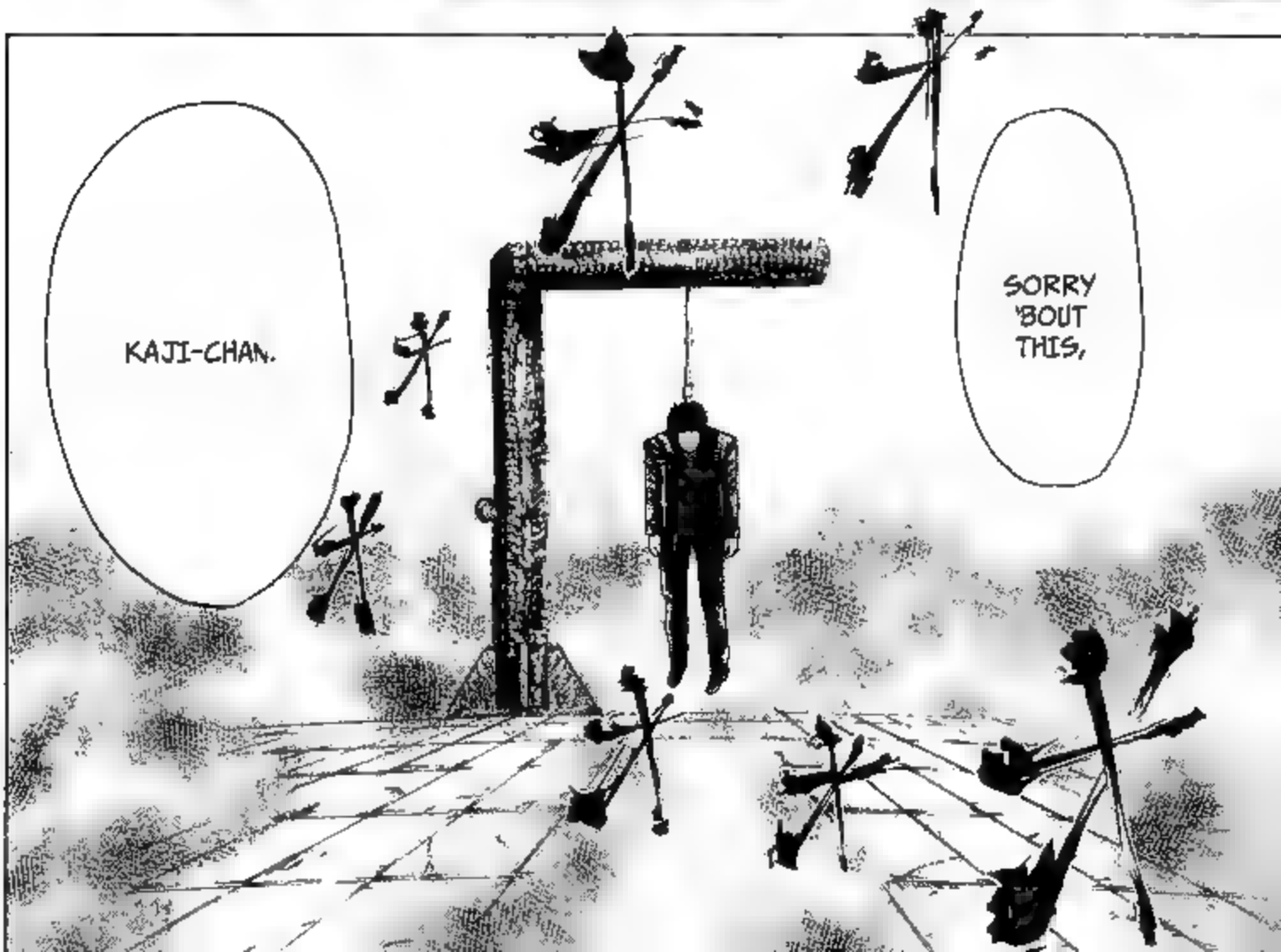
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN BY LIAR?! YOU WHIPPER-SNAPPERS!
!!

第70話
Parent and Child
NOW... KAJI-SAMA,
.....
IT'S TIME FOR THE HANG-MAN'S EXECU-TION...
I'M SORRY,
BUT THIS IS WHERE WE PART WAYS.
.....

第70話
Parent and Child

OH YEAH ...
WHAT ABOUT BAKJ-SAN?
WHY AM I GOING TO BE HANGED?
?
WHAT? I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING HERE.
HUH?

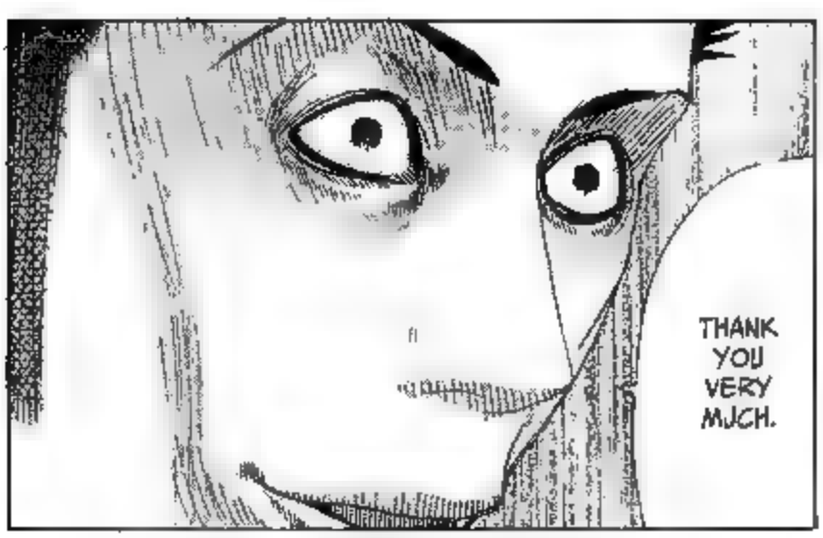

THAT'S WHY, DESPITE NOT KNOWING, YOU BECAME THE ONE TO MEET THE SCAFFOLD.
C'MON... I WAS..
ONLY YOUR REPRESEN-TATIVE, RIGHT?
KAJI-CHAN.
SORRY, MY BAD... I LOST... BUT, YOU KNOW,
AH!


KAJI-CHAN.
SORRY 'BOUT THIS,

IT'S ALRIGHT.
BAKU ... SAN ...
NO !!
OH!

YOU OKAY THERE, KAJI-CHAN...? AS SOON AS WE CAME BACK,

FIRST OFF, YOU NEED TO REPLENISH YOUR BODY WATER! AFTER THAT, YOU CAN EAT THIS APPLE PEAR.
HERE.
YOU FELL ASLEEP FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT.
THEY'RE TOPPED WITH KARIUME... THE SALT WILL ENHANCE THE APPLE PEAR'S SWEETNESS. KINDA LIKE ADDING SALT TO WATERMELONS... OR EATING MELONS WITH UNCURED HAM.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WERE MENTALLY EXHAUSTED.


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AH...

.....

AH... THIS IS REALLY YUMMY.

YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO FOLLOW ME ANYMORE.
SO...
.....
IS IT REALLY ABOUT OVER-EXERTING?

I'VE BECOME A KAKEROU MEMBER NOW.
SO YEAH, KAJI-CHAN, YOU DON'T NEED TO OVEREXERT YOURSELF.

WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED AT THE ABANDONED BUILDING IF I DIDN'T OPEN MY MOUTH FOR THOSE RIDICULOUS SPEECHES OF MINE.
AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME... IT FEELS... MORE OR LESS LIKE THAT.
THAT'S CRUEL...

BECAUSE OF THAT, BAKU-SAN WON THE GAME.
JUST BECAUSE I BROKE THAT CAMERA!
MOREOVER, EVEN AT THE LAST EVENT,

DAMMIT
THAT'S RIGHT
.....

AH!
OK
YOU SEEM HIGHLY ADDICTED TO IT, BUT ABOUT THAT TITLE, I WAS THE ONE THEY GOT INTO CONTACT WITH WHEN YOU FROGOT IT. DON'T YOU FORGET THAT!
ON TOP OF THAT... I KNOW THAT BAKU-SAN SECRETLY VISITS THAT VIDEO STORE AND RENTS "OPERATION BIG BOOBS SERIES"!

HERE, KAJI-CHAN.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY USE OR STUFF LIKE THAT.
LET'S GET BACK TO BUSI-NESS...
ANY-WAY..
WHY DID HE MENTION THAT..

FOR PUTTING IN THE EFFORT FOR THIS MONEY IN THE POKER GAME AT THE ABANDONED BUILDING, YOU CAN ACCEPT THIS WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS.
THIS IS 25 MILLION YEN, HALF OF THE 50 MILLION WE WERE SUPPOSED TO USE IN THE TUNNEL BUT NEVER DID. THIS IS YOUR SHARE, KAJI-CHAN.

WHAT AM I SAYING... BAKU-SAN COULD'VE WON HANGMAN EVEN WITHOUT ME..
I JUST... WANT TO BE LIKE YOU, BAKU-SAN... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT...
I'LL BE OUT WITH MAA-KUN TO BUY SOME KARIUME *
SO, TAKE IT EASY AND REST..

T/N: SOME SORT OF DRIED/SALT PROCESSED PLUMS

YOU ARE JUST TOO...
FAR AHEAD OF ME.

ホッ
ホッ
……
コ・コ・コ
BAKU-SAN? DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?
EH?!
HUH...?
WHY ARE YOU... HERE...?

I SEE...
I HEARD THAT YOU MOVED OUT OF YOUR ROOM AND STARTED LIVING IN A HOTEL, SO I WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU SHOULDN'T ASK ME WHY I'M HERE, SHOULD YOU?!
TAKAOMI!

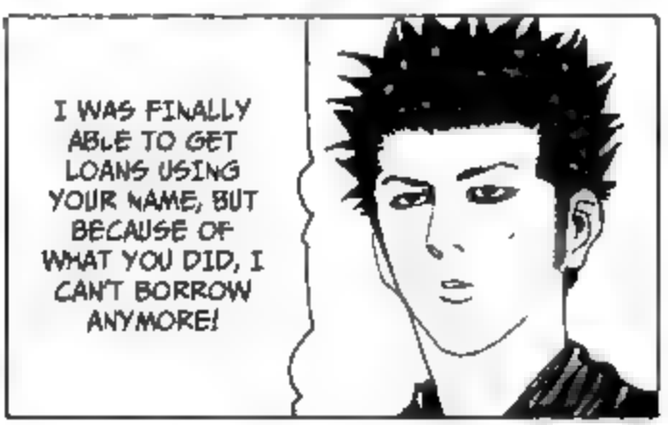
I AM YOUR MOM YOU KNOW... NOW, PLEASE EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
……

LET'S GO, MAA-KUN...
BAKU... NII-CHAN?!
.....

I LEARNED THAT, AT SOME POINT OR ANOTHER, YOUR CONTRACT ENDED... WHY IS THAT?
RECENTLY, WHEN I WENT TO BORROW MONEY,
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT...

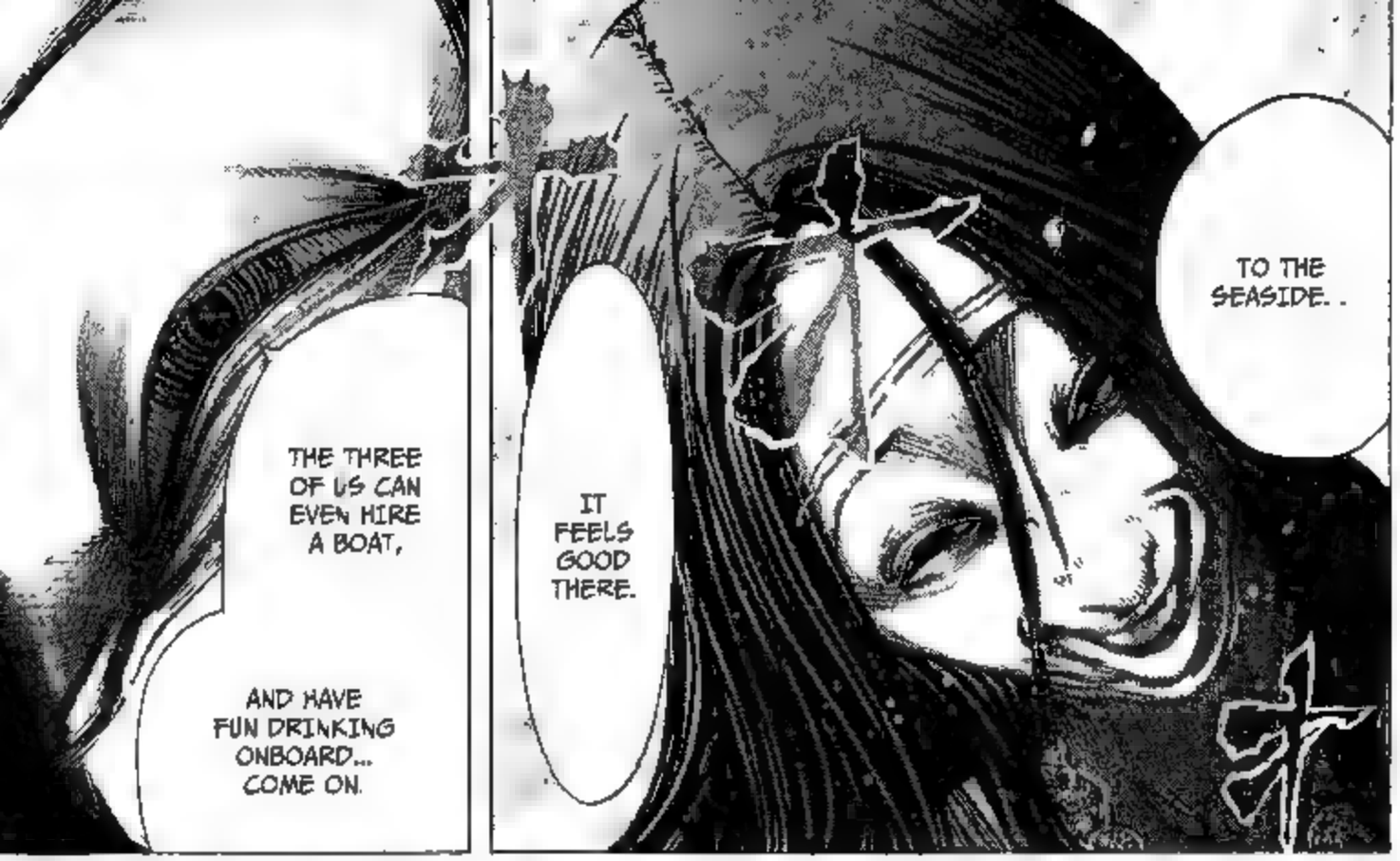
THANKS TO YOU, I COULDN'T GO ON THE HOLIDAY I WANTED!
BECAUSE YOU WENT OFF ON A DEBT-WORKOUT, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN USELESS EVER SINCE YOU WERE A LITTLE BRAT...
PHEW... SERI-OUSLY,
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST PAID THE LOAN BACK STEADILY, BUT INSTEAD... WITH THIS...


I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GET LOANS USING YOUR NAME, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID, I CAN'T BORROW ANYMORE!

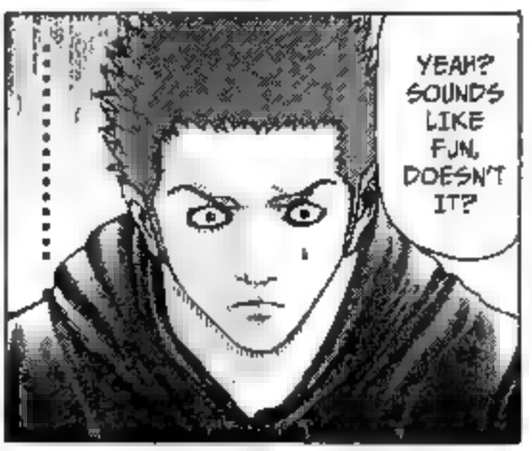
CRUNCH
ON TOP OF THAT, SINCE YOU WENT FOR A DEBT-WORKOUT, YOUR NAME IS NOW KNOWN BY CREDIBILITY AGENCIES AND HAS BECOME USELESS!

...YOU'VE BECOME A COMPLETELY USELESS CHILD.
.....
THERE'S STILL THE LOAN WE GOT FOR THE CAR WE BOUGHT... WE HARDLY PAID FOR THE INSTALLMENT... COME ON, LET'S DO IT, ALREADY.
HEY HEY, NO NEED TO SAY IT LIKE THAT.
.....
COME.
?
LET'S GO.
PHEW ...
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY-MORE.
HMM NO...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE BEST THING TO DO... WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY...?
IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND
COME ON... WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN HERE, RIGHT? LET'S GO SOMEWHERE FOR A CHANGE IN MOOD.
EH?


THE THREE OF US CAN EVEN HIRE A BOAT,
AND HAVE FUN DRINKING ONBOARD... COME ON.
IT FEELS GOOD THERE.
TO THE SEASIDE. .

I'M GLAD THAT BAKU-SAN ISN'T HERE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE THIS MESS. .

I AM .
PULLED BACK TO REALITY.


YEAH? SOUNDS LIKE FUN, DOESN'T IT?

MOTHER... THERE'S 25 MILLION YEN IN THIS BAG.
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE...

THE WAY I AM NOW
WAS NEVER MEANT TO BECOME SOMEONE LIKE BAKU-SAN...

I'M GIVING THIS TO YOU. SO.
WHAT .. DID YOU SAY?
HUH..?

AND DO WHAT-EVER THE FUCK YOU WANT.
DON'T EVER APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN!

AH-HA H-HAH-HAH!
WHY DID THAT KID HAVE THAT MUCH CASH? DON'T TELL ME THAT THIS IS ACTUALLY SOME DIRTY MONEY?
WELL WITH THIS MUCH WE WON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TROUBLES FOR A WHILE
THAT MEANS WE CAN STILL USE HIS LIFE INSURANCE NEXT TIME.
AT ANY RATE, WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE SOME FUN AT THE CASINO?
.....

ラーメン
BU
My Worth
07

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第71話 僕の価値

My Worth

M-MONEY! HERE COMES MY MONEY!
HEHE
AH
MOTHER ...
.....
WHAT'S IT THIS TIME...? CALLING ME HERE OUT OF THE BLUE...
HEE HEEHEE! HELL YEAH!
.....
.....!!
.....
KIDS CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR OWN PARENTS...?
SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME... AFTER CHOOSING EXACTLY WHO THEY WISH TO BE BORN FROM, THAT PERSON WILL BE THEIR PARENT... WHICH MEANS...
WHO SAYS THAT...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

EVEN IF THEY HAVE ROTTEN PARENTS, THIS IS WHAT MAKES THEM GROW INTO ADULTS... A TRIAL THEY NEED TO OVERCOME...
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT YOU WOULD SAY.
HMPH.

B... BAKU-SAN... MARCO ...
YOU HAVE NO WAY OUT OF THIS BULLSHIT, KAJI-CHAN.
IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE KIDS, THEN...
IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE SOME LIVES THAT WITHER AWAY BEFORE LEARNING SURVIVAL SKILLS BECAUSE OF THEIR PARENTS.

THIS DEMON... WE TOOK HIS GAMBLE AT THE CASINO, AND FELL INTO HIS TRAP. AND THEN... BEFORE WE KNEW IT, EVERYTHING WE HAD WAS...
TA... TAKAOMI! YOU...
YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
!!!!

GREE-TINGS, KAJI-SAMA ...
HUH.. ? REFEREE?
A... AT ANY RATE, WHAT THE HECK IS HE?! THIS "REFEREE" GUY...

SINCE KAJI-SAMA IS LIKELY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
I AM THE KAKEROU REFEREE KNOWN AS...
KUSHINADA TETSUMA.

.....
I PRETTY MUCH GOT IT, KUSHINADA-SAN.
NO... IT'S FINE.
.....

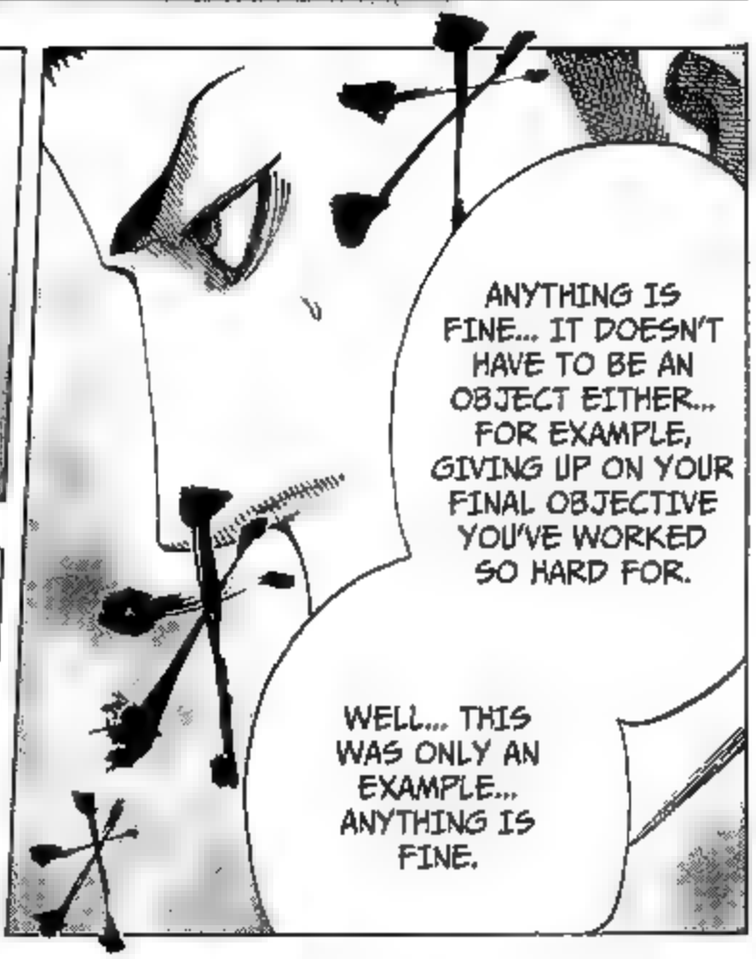
BUT, DURING THE CLOSING BET,
MOM'S MONEY WAS SUBSIDED.
IT SHOULD BE SOME-THING LIKE POKER.
THOSE TWO HAD SOME SORT OF GAMBLE... JUDGING BY THOSE CARDS,
.....
IN SHORT... IF SHE WITHDRAWS AT THIS POINT, SHE'LL LOSE EVERYTHING...
BUT, SHE HAS A GOOD HAND AND BELIEVES THAT SHE CAN WIN...
LOOKING AT HER EXPRESSION, SHE SHOULD'VE LOST MORE THAN WHAT I HANDED TO HER.
FOR WHICH I HAVE INSURANCE, TO COVER THAT BET... SO, SHE CALLED ME HERE TO GET MY APPROVAL.
AND SINCE, SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY AT THE MOMENT, SHE WANTS TO USE MY LIFE...

IF MOM LOSES THE GAME, I CAN'T COMPLAIN NO MATTER WHAT BAKU-SAN DOES TO ME... THAT'S HOW IT IS... RIGHT, BAKU-SAN?
!
THAT'S MY KAJI-CHAN.
HEH... THE DEFICIT IS...
ONLY FIVE MILLION... AND...
EVERYTHING SO FAR SEEMS TO HAVE GONE ACCORDING TO BAKU-SAN'S SCENARIO...
BUT.. OH WELL...
HAHA... MY MOM IS ACTUALLY...
MY LIFE INSURANCE PAYMENT IS A TOTAL OF 20 MILLIONS...
VALUES MY LIFE AT 5 MILLION AND BETTING ON ME.

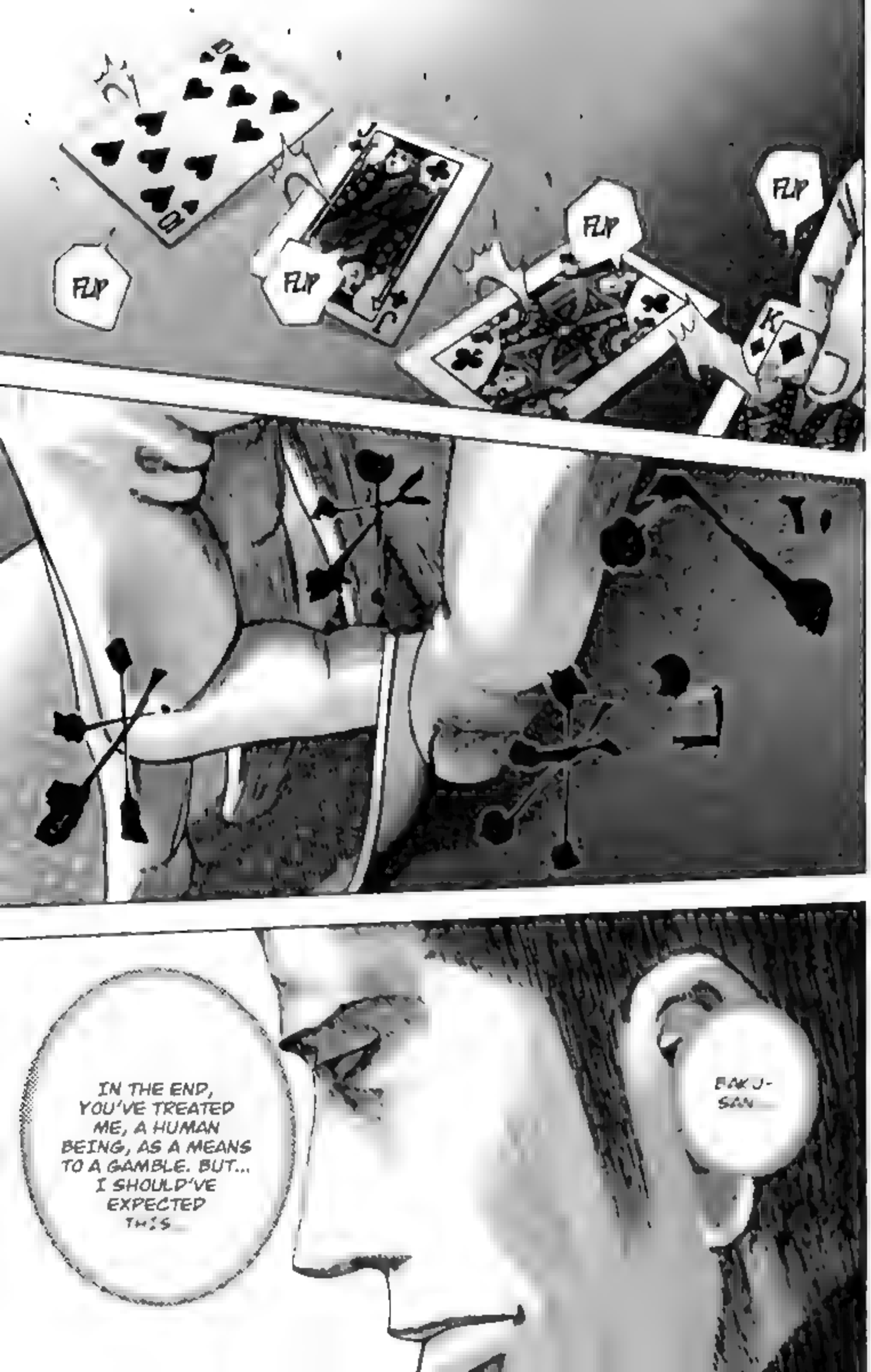
I'LL ACCEPT THIS BET, BAKU-SAN.
I AGREE TO BECOME THE WAGER... HOWEVER,
BAKU-SAN,
REGARDING MY LIFE'S WORTH, CAN YOU BET ON SOMETHING IN RETURN?

HM?
SURE, I'M COOL WITH THAT...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

EH?
THEN, PLEASE REVEAL YOJR HAND.


ANYTHING IS FINE... IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AN OBJECT EITHER... FOR EXAMPLE, GIVING UP ON YOUR FINAL OBJECTIVE YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR.
WELL... THIS WAS ONLY AN EXAMPLE... ANYTHING IS FINE.

BAKU-
SAN
HAS ..
MOM
HAS
THREE
KINGS.
NO WONDER
SHE WOULDN'T
WITHDRAW
WITH THAT
HAND

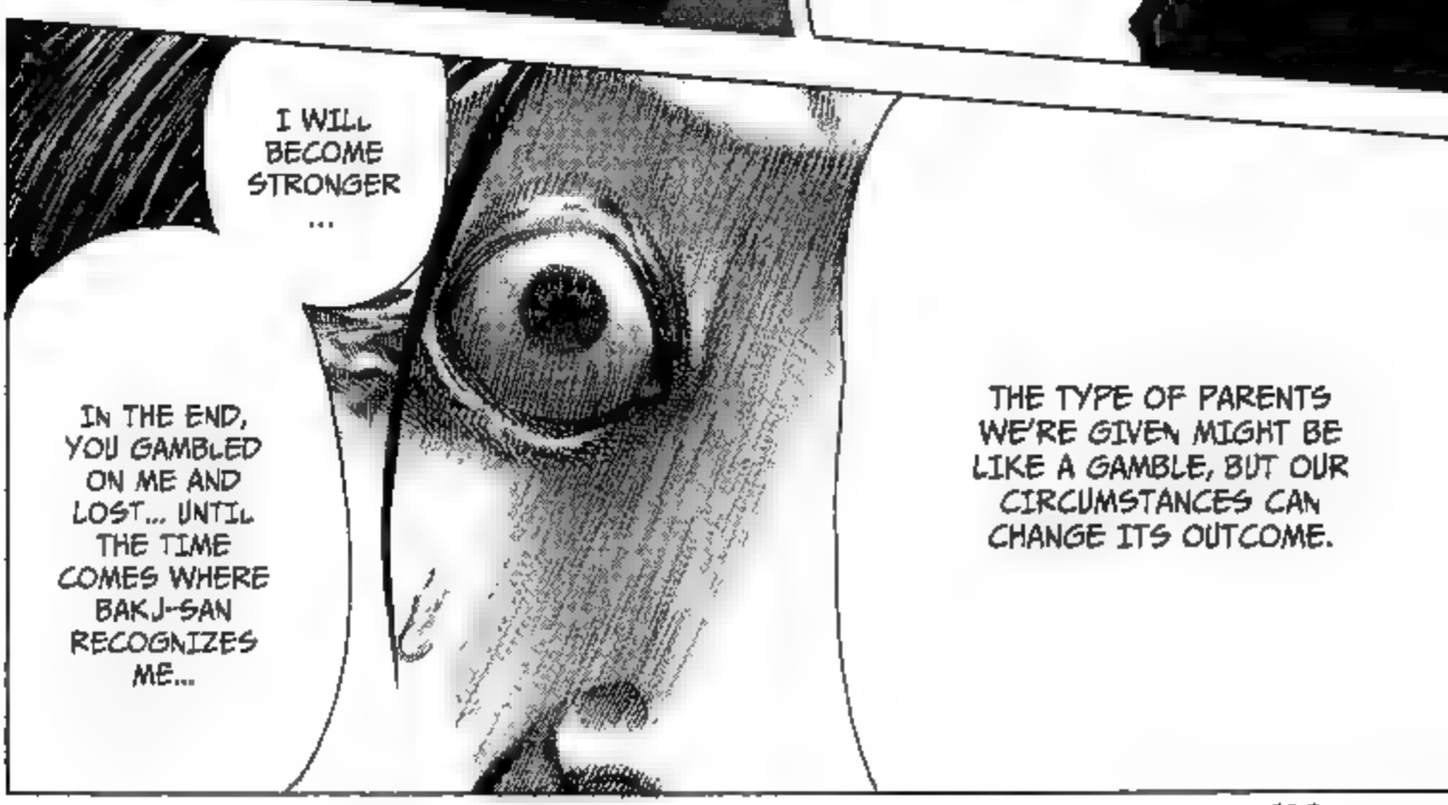

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
IN THE END, YOU'VE TREATED ME, A HUMAN BEING, AS A MEANS TO A GAMBLE. BUT... I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THIS...
BAKU-SAN...

THROUGH GAMBLES.
THIS PERSON TRIES TO TAKE EVERY-THING...
STRAIGHT. I AM THE WINNER OF THIS GAME... WHICH MEANS...

KAJI-CHAN IS ONCE MORE MY PROPERTY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT PART OF BAKU-SAN IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT FASCINATED ME.
AT LEAST BAKU-SAN
UNLIKE THESE GUYS, WHO SIMPLY GAMBLED ON ME WITHOUT TAKING ANY RISKS
...THAT'S WHY HE TOOK ON THE GAMBLE FOR ME, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS ORDINARY POKER WHERE THE

ABOUT MY EXISTENCE.
THAT IS WHAT HE'S IMPLYING...
...MY PRESENCE IS SIMPLY ESSENTIAL.

!
MOM...
.....


IN THE END, YOU GAMBLED ON ME AND LOST... UNTIL THE TIME COMES WHERE BAKJ-SAN RECOGNIZES ME...
I WILL BECOME STRONGER ...
THE TYPE OF PARENTS WE'RE GIVEN MIGHT BE LIKE A GAMBLE, BUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES CAN CHANGE ITS OUTCOME.

A-AH.
FARE-WELL.
PAT
MOREOVER, HOW DARE YOU THROW AWAY YOUR OWN MOTHER! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF HER KID?!
H-HEY YOU! JUST WAIT A SECOND!
WE'LL BE IN DEEP SHIT WITHOUT ANY MONEY!
HM?
NOPE. NONE AT ALL, KAJI-CHAN.
IS... IS THERE A BAN ON VIOLENT ACTS IN THIS GAME?
WAIT A... BA... BAKJ-SAN.

IS THAT SO...

YOU... WERE LUCKY THAT YOU LOST.
EEK!
THIS WORLD ISN'T THAT SWEET ...
EEEE EEEK!
ACK!
BAKU-SAN... AS ALWAYS,
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED... IF YOU HAD WON.
THOUGH YOU MAY BE FAR,
HOWEVER...
YOU ARE SO DISTANT...
FOR NOW...
I'M SATISFIED WITH THAT.
FOR NOW,
I CAN STILL SEE YOU...
I'M SURE OF IT...

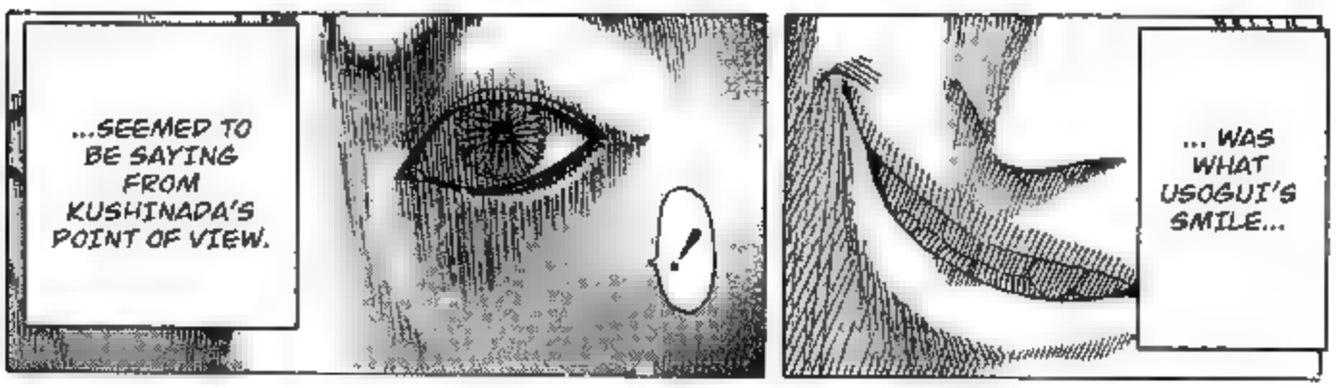
I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU...

第72話
True Strength

WHAT IS...
YOUR REFEREE NUMBER?
MY NUMBER IS NINETY.
SINCE NUMBERS HAVE REGAINED THEIR MEANING, I INTEND TO OBTAIN THE NUMBER ZERO POSITION.
IF THIS PERSON IS NUMBER ZERO...
AH I SEE
PLEASE EXCUSE MY DELAYED RESPONSE
...

I'VE BEEN..
WORKING AS A REFEREE FOR FOUR YEARS
SO, HOW ABOUT YOUR CAREER?
A RATHER STRANGE QUESTION, BUT...
OOH.. NINETY, HUH?
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT REFEREES HAVE VARIOUS NATURES.
OH, I SEE... I UNDERSTAND IT PERFECTLY
HMM... FOUR YEARS, EH...
WITHOUT EVER FIGHTING THEMSELVES.
AND THE ONES THAT LET THEIR HENCHMEN HANDLE THE USE OF FORCE, INCLUDING THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS,
THE ONES THAT PERSONALLY APPLY OR SUPPRESS THE USE OF FORCE,

"YOU PRETEND TO BE FROM THE PARTY WITH TRUE STRENGTH KNOWN FOR MOBILIZING PERSONALLY,
BUT YOU'RE ONLY NUMBER 90? YOU'RE AIMING AT NUMBER ZERO, BUT ISN'T IT ALL TALK?"
UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO, THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS WAS JUST A SHOW... AND NUMBERS HAD NO SIGNIFICANCE.
REFEREES OF THE FORMER TYPE CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY AND HAVE THEIR MEN ON STANDBY WHILE ATTENDING TO DUTIES ALONE, LIKELY AS A DISPLAY OF SELF CONFIDENCE...


...SEEMED TO BE SAYING FROM KUSHINADA'S POINT OF VIEW.
!
... WAS WHAT USOGUI'S SMILE...

ARE THE FIRST ONES THAT A MEMBER GETS ACQUAINTED WITH.
EXCLUSIVE REFEREES
SO NOW, WHO'S GONNA BE MY EXCLUSIVE REFEREE?
THOUGH, THE FIRST REFEREE I MET WITH IS NO LONGER IN KAKEROU.
AT THAT MOMENT,
KUSHINADA'S THOUGHTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED BEING MANIPULATED.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE CONDITIONS OF A PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP WERE RESET.
MR. YAKOU IS EXCLUSIVE... IN HIS ABSENCE... IN OTHER WORDS, ON THE OCCASIONS THAT AN EXCLUSIVE REFEREE IS DOUBLE BOOKED FOR DIFFERENT KAKEROU GAMES,
MR. NOWA OR I, KUSHINADA, WILL ATTEND ON HIS BEHALF
HMMM, AS I THOUGHT...
THEN, KUSHINADA-SAN, I WANT TO DISCUSS SOMETHING. WITH YOU.
I WONDER IF YOU COULD...
FORGET OUR MEETING HERE TONIGHT ?
!!
TO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING MY EXCLUSIVE REFEREE ..
YOU LACK STRENGTH FOR IT... WAS WHAT USOGUI WAS IMPLYING.

!
SO, HOW ABOUT... I EVALUATE YOUR STRENGTH?
ON THE OTHER HAND, I STILL HAVE MANY DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES.
AS MUCH AS I WANT TO SAY THAT, THIS IS STILL YOUR JOB.
I WON'T MAKE YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON THOSE TWO BEHIND ME...
Certainly, not your feet either
NO, NO, DON'T WORRY.
OR, DON'T TELL ME...
HOW SILLY... ARE YOU SERIOUS, SIR?
IF YOU HAPPEN TO LOSE THIS...
CRACK
AND IN RETURN...

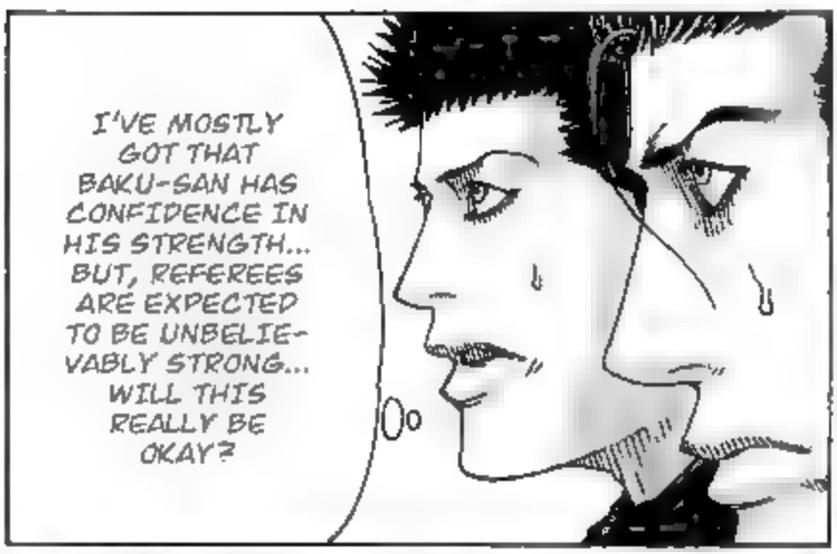
ALL OF US WILL FORGET ABOUT TONIGHT'S EVENTS.
BAKU-SAN .. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PHYSICAL STRENGTH ABOVE AVERAGE
OR WAS ALL THAT A DRAMA TO FOOL OTHERS INTO THINKING YOU'RE WEAK...?
COULD IT BE THAT HIS STRENGTH IS AT REFEREE LEVEL ?

MADARAME BAKU...
DON'T JOKE AROUND...

IT'S NO WONDER YOU'VE AVOIDED FIGHTING SO FAR...
I SEE...
IT'S NOT ALL SHOW... YOU HAVE AT LEAST WHAT IT TAKES TO BE NUMBER 90.
WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE EVALUATION.
HOWEVER, I USUALLY FAIL AT RESTRAINING MYSELF... ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS?
I UNDERSTAND... IF YOU CAN TELL THAT MUCH,

YEAH, IT'S FINE. SO THIS BET IS DECIDED.

EVEN IF IT MEANS DYING BEFORE THE SURPASSING THE LEADER GAME...?


I'VE MOSTLY GOT THAT BAKU-SAN HAS CONFIDENCE IN HIS STRENGTH... BUT, REFEREES ARE EXPECTED TO BE UNBELIE-VABLY STRONG... WILL THIS REALLY BE OKAY?

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THEN...

LET'S BEGIN.
THE REFEREE WHO KILLED USOGUI
NOT A BAD RING TO IT
What's with that stance..?
トン

HOOOO
...
UH
HAA.

ATAA
AA

ドン
……

ATAA
AA
ATAA
AA

FLAP
FLAP

FLAP
FLAP
DAMN THAT HURT!
AN UNFA-FALLELED PEPEPEE SELECTION, HUH THAT USOGUI
IT SEEMS LIKE I'LL BE BUSY WITH MANY THINGS FROM NOW ON

SOMEHOW THE WAY HE GOT BEATEN SEEMED VERY UNNATURAL
...
LOOKS LIKE AN EVEN STRONGER REFEREE IS NEEDED FOR BAKU-SAN'S LEADER SURPASSING GAME.
IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS BEHIND HIM.
NOT REALLY....

AT THE SAME TIME, NOBODY KNOWS WHEN YAKOU-SAN OR NOWA-SAN MIGHT UNEXPECTEDLY DIE... AFTER ALL, EXCLUSIVE REFEREES SHOULD ESSENTIALLY BE... YOU KNOW...
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS RESULT MEANS THAT THIS GUY IS UNSKILLED, BUT...

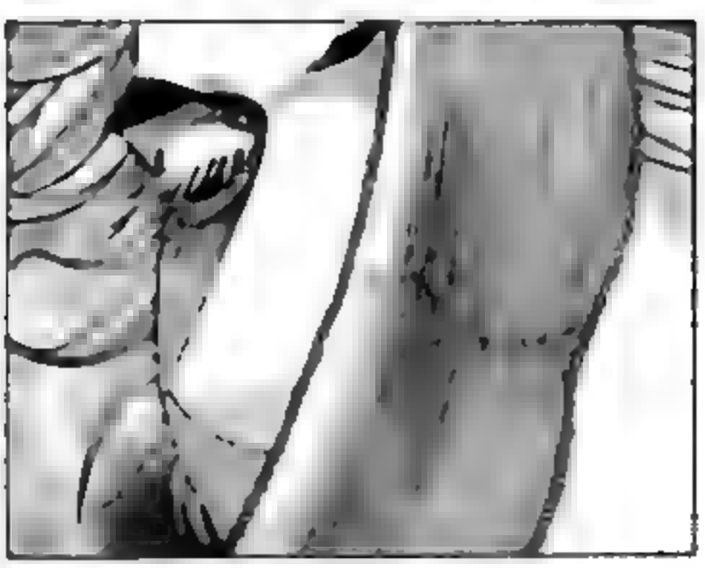
.....
A GUY WHO CAN BE CAUGHT UP IN MY TRICK THIS EASILY IS WORTHY OF SLEEPING FROM TAKING MY DIVINE FIST OF THE NORTH STAR...
WELL, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS?

THE LEADER SURPASSING GAME...

ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE LEADER SURPASSING GAME IS THAT ONE'S EXCLUSIVE REFEREE...
THE GAME WILL BE CARRIED OUT TRADITIONALLY, AND THE SYSTEM OF THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS IS CHANGED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL... WAS WHAT HE SAID, BUT...

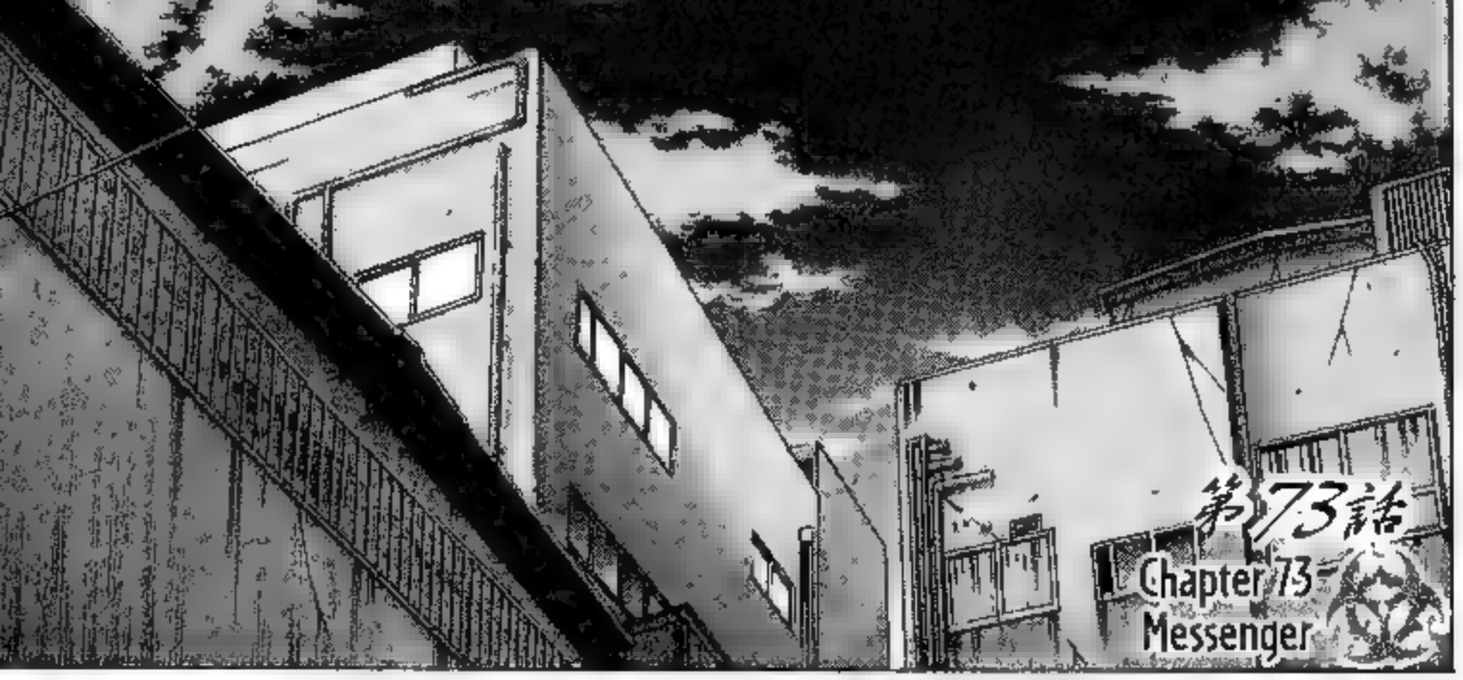
?

.....

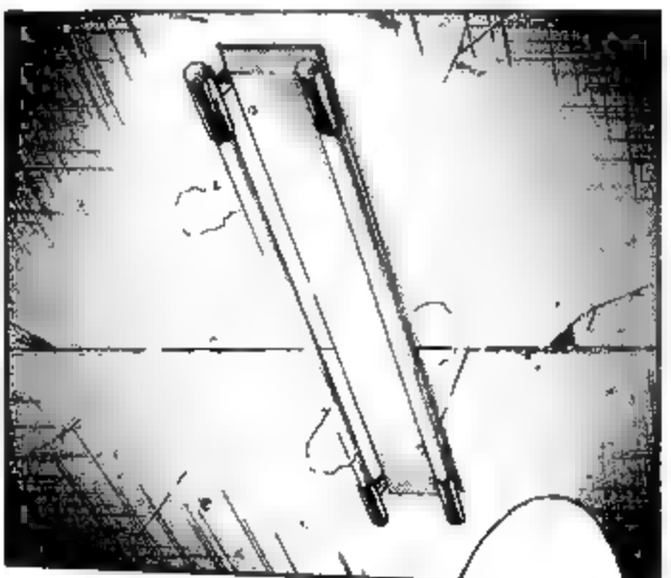


SURPASSING THE LEADER IS WHERE YOU BET ON EVERYTHING... YOU CAN CHALLENGE FOR IT ONLY ONCE. AND SINCE MY LIFE HAS YET TO BE CONFISCATED, MY PARTICIPATION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I SIMPLY KNOW ONE THING..

WHICH MEANS, THE CHALLEN-GER WILL BE...
YOU, KAJI-CHAN!

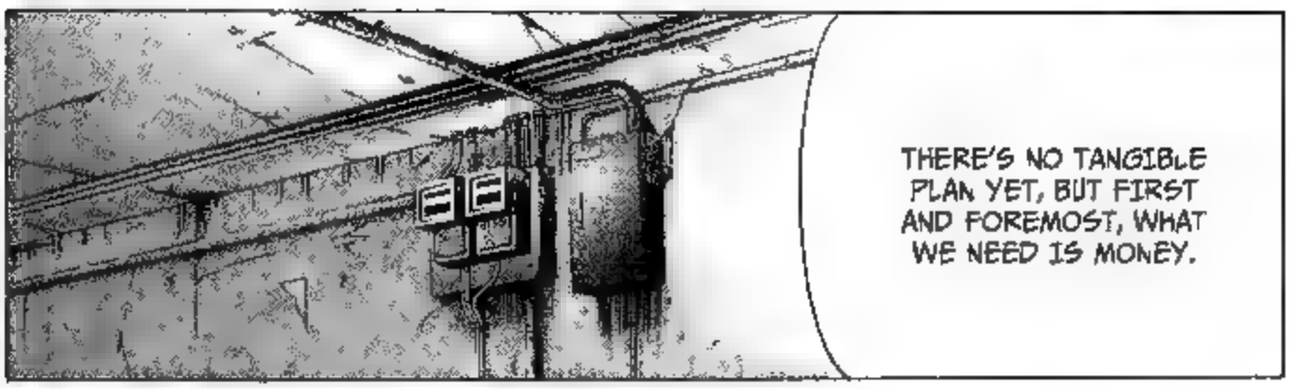

第73話
Chapter 73-
Messenger

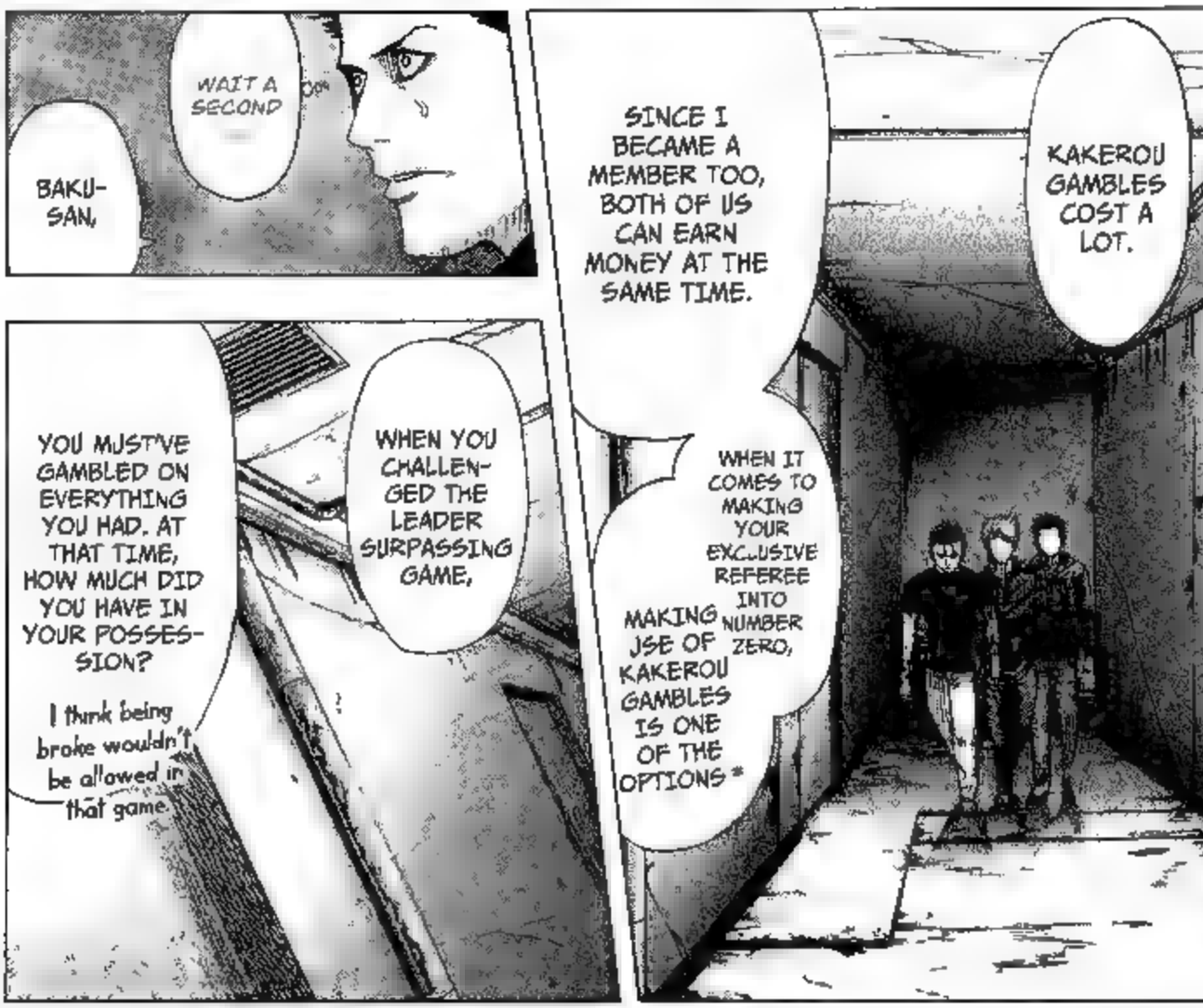
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING BAKJ-SAN... THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT...
HAHA HA.
SCRATCH



HM...? I.. WILL?
I'LL BE SURPAS-SING THE LEADER...?

THAT'S FOR SURE.
THAT IS SIMPLY IMPOS-SIBLE. YOU KNOW THERE'S NO WAY I'LL WIN.




BAKU-SAN,
WAIT A SECOND
SINCE I BECAME A MEMBER TOO, BOTH OF US CAN EARN MONEY AT THE SAME TIME.
KAKEROU GAMBLES COST A LOT.
WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING YOUR EXCLUSIVE REFEREE INTO NUMBER ZERO, MAKING USE OF KAKEROU GAMBLES IS ONE OF THE OPTIONS*
WHEN YOU CHALLENGED THE LEADER SURPASSING GAME,
YOU MUST'VE GAMBLED ON EVERYTHING YOU HAD. AT THAT TIME, HOW MUCH DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR POSSESSION?
I think being broke wouldn't be allowed in that game.

*PROOFER'S NOTE: WHEN YOU DO A KAKEROU GAMBLE, A REFEREE MUST BE PRESENT. NOT SURE HOW MANY, BUT THERE'S A GREATER POSSIBILITY TO MEET SOMEONE OF HIGHER RANK AND CHALLENGE THEM FOR THEIR NUMBER. THIS MIGHT BE WHAT HE MEANS BY MAKE USE OF KAKEROU GAMBLES.

AH... UHMM... YEAH, THAT TIME..
I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT AMOUNT.
Several tens of billions?

IF YOU WIN, ALL OF KAKEROU'S MANPOWER WILL BE YOURS... CONSIDERING THAT ALONE, THE SUM WASN'T HIGH AT ALL.
HA HA.
DIDN'T HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE "TENS OF BILLIONS" JUST NOW?
AH... OF COURSE IT WOULD BE AN AMAZING SUM...

HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD
WHO WOULD DISREGARD ALL THOSE PROCEDURES FROM THE GET-GO IN ATTEMPT TO GET WHAT THEY WANT.
BY HAVING THE SAME LEVEL... OR PERHAPS
AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL OF FORCES IN THEIR POSSESSION, THEY DON'T EVEN NEED TO CHALLENGE THE LEADER SURPASSING GAME.

BECAUSE THEY CAN SIMPLY TAKE THE LEADER POSITION BY FORCE.

WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU.
EXCUSE ME, BUT BEFORE WE CAN ALLOW YOU TO PROCEED,

WE HAVE TO PERFORM A BODY CHECK ON YOU.
YES, AS YOU WISH.

AREN'T YOU GUYS HIDING WEAPONS ON YOURSELVES? IF THAT'S THE CASE, THIS WILL NOT BE A FAIR DEAL.
OOPS..
I MAY HAVE AGREED ON THAT... BUT AS FOR YOU...
IF YOU STILL HAVE DOUBTS, YOU MAY DO A BODY CHECK ON US.
PLEASE BE AT EASE, WE ARE UNARMED. THE ONES INSIDE ARE THE SAME TOO.
HAH... HAHA HA!
.....
I'LL KILL YOU!
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN GROPING BODIES OF MONKEYS LIKE YOU!

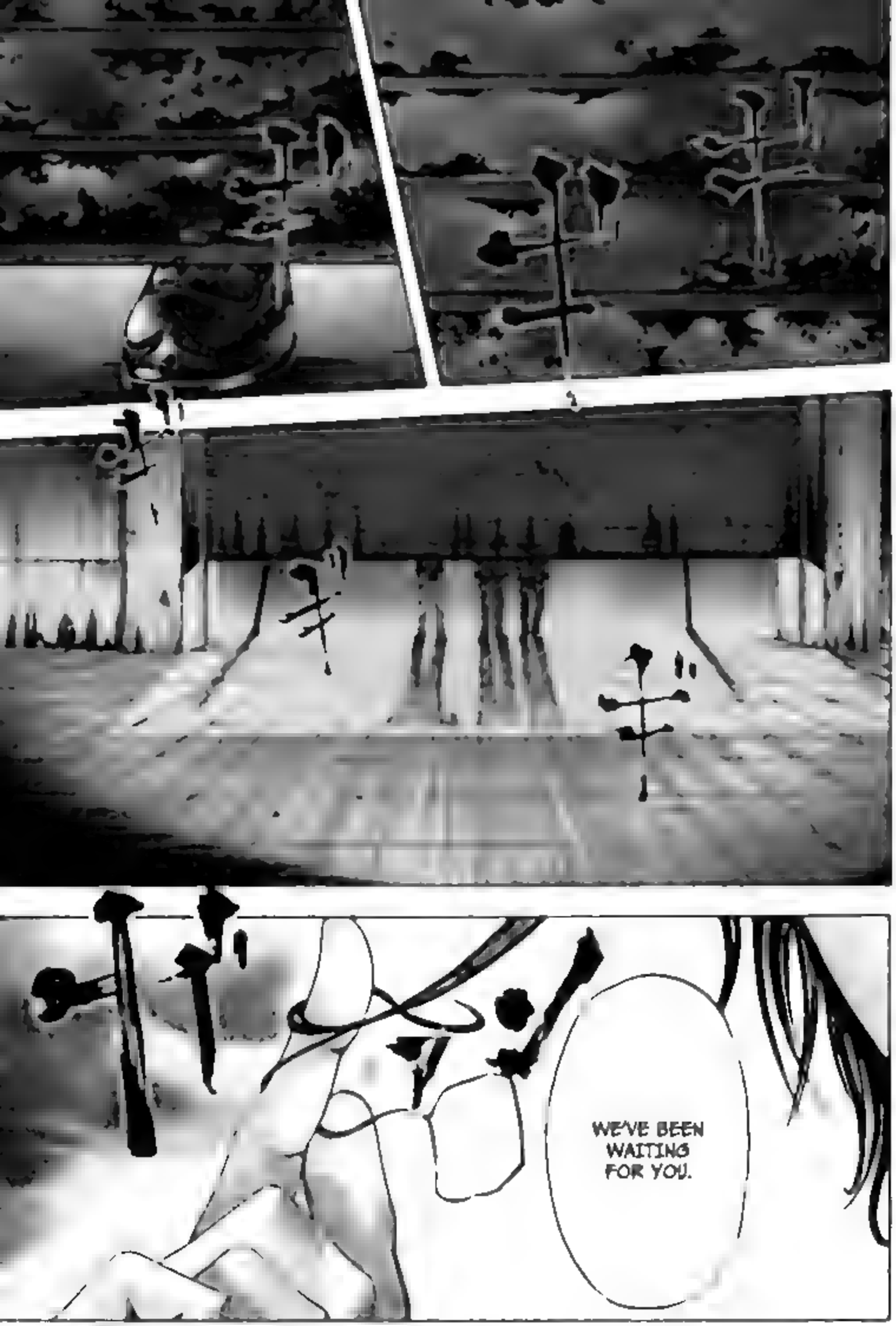
OK! THREE OF YOU INSIDE AND TWO OF YOU HERE MAKES FIVE PEOPLE.
IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO MATCH OUR NUMBERS. AFTER ALL, JAPANESE ARE HONEST PEOPLE
I'M SORRY! IT'S A JOKE, YOU KNOW, A JOKE!

THAT MEANS I'M AGAINST BEING GROPED EVEN MORE.

BUT, YOU KNOW
IF I'M NOT INTERE-STED IN GROPING.

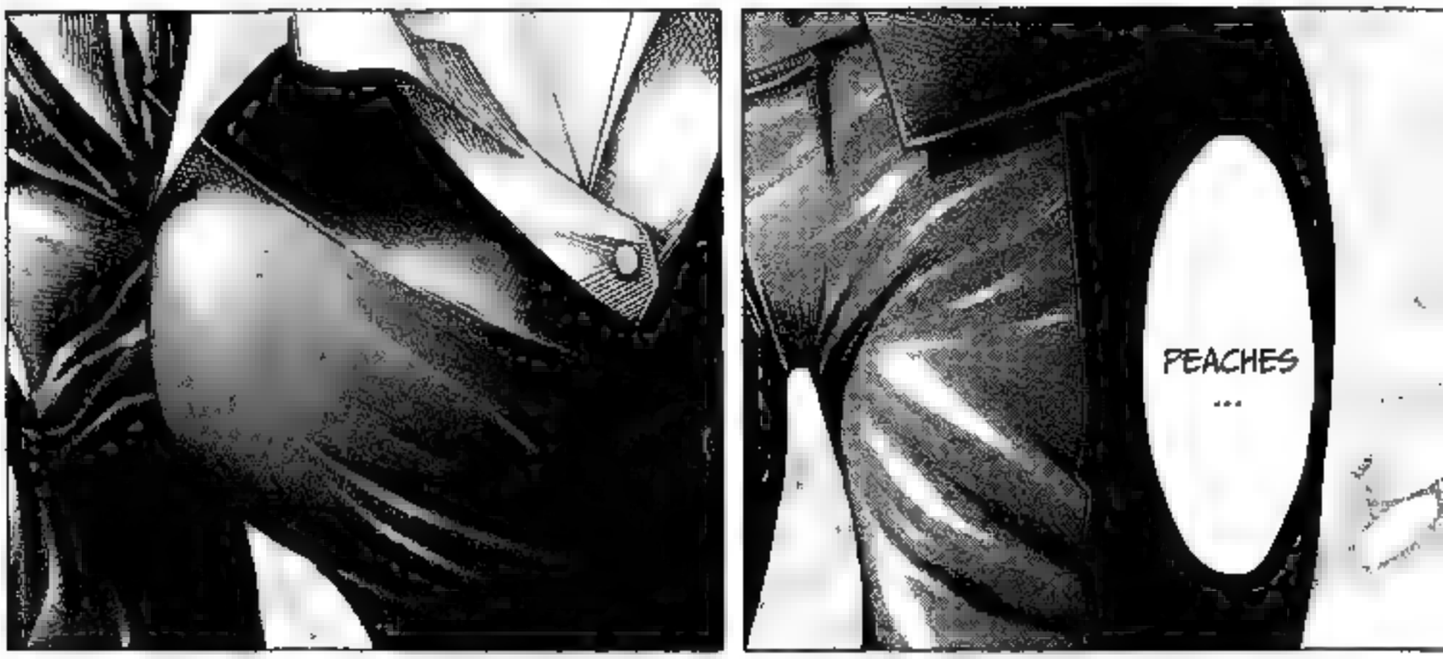
!!

COLLAPSE
COLLAPSE

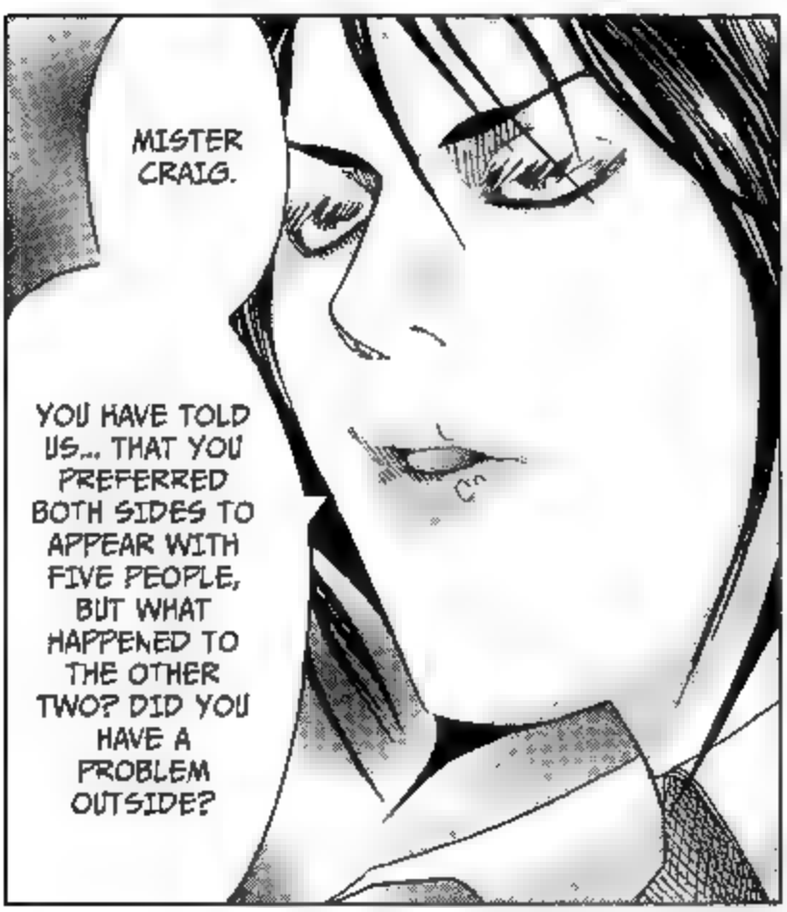

WE'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOU.

I AM KAKEROU'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MIZUE YUUKO.

.....
OH-
L... LOOK AT THOSE...


PEACHES
...

WHAT SHOULD I BE CALLING YOU...?
ERM...
PEACHES! I'M A BIG FAN OF PEACHES HERE!

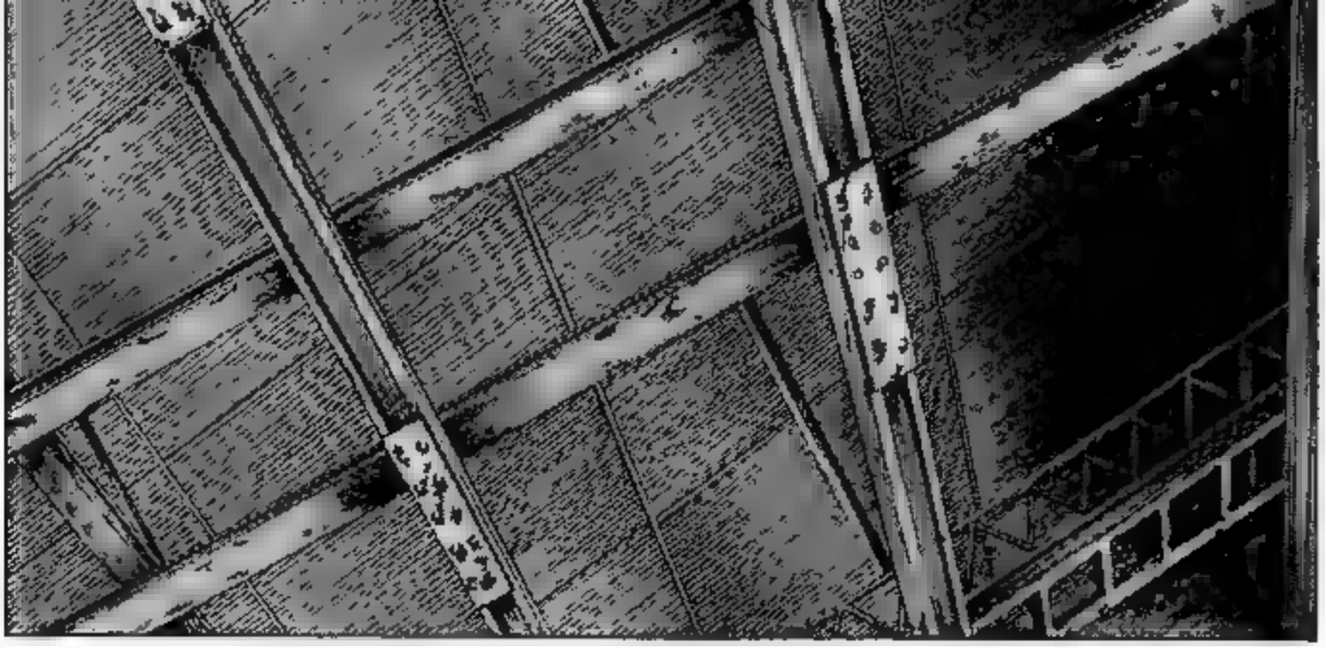

MISTER CRAIG.
YOU HAVE TOLD US... THAT YOU PREFERRED BOTH SIDES TO APPEAR WITH FIVE PEOPLE, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO? DID YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OUTSIDE?

PLEASE, CALL ME CRAIG.
CRAIG.
.....

AHH, YES, THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I JUST REME-MBERED.
OUT-SIDE,
I WENT THROUGH A BODY CHECK... WHICH MEANS,
I HAVE THE RIGHTS TO CONDUCT A BODY CHECK TOO.
PLEASE, DO IT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

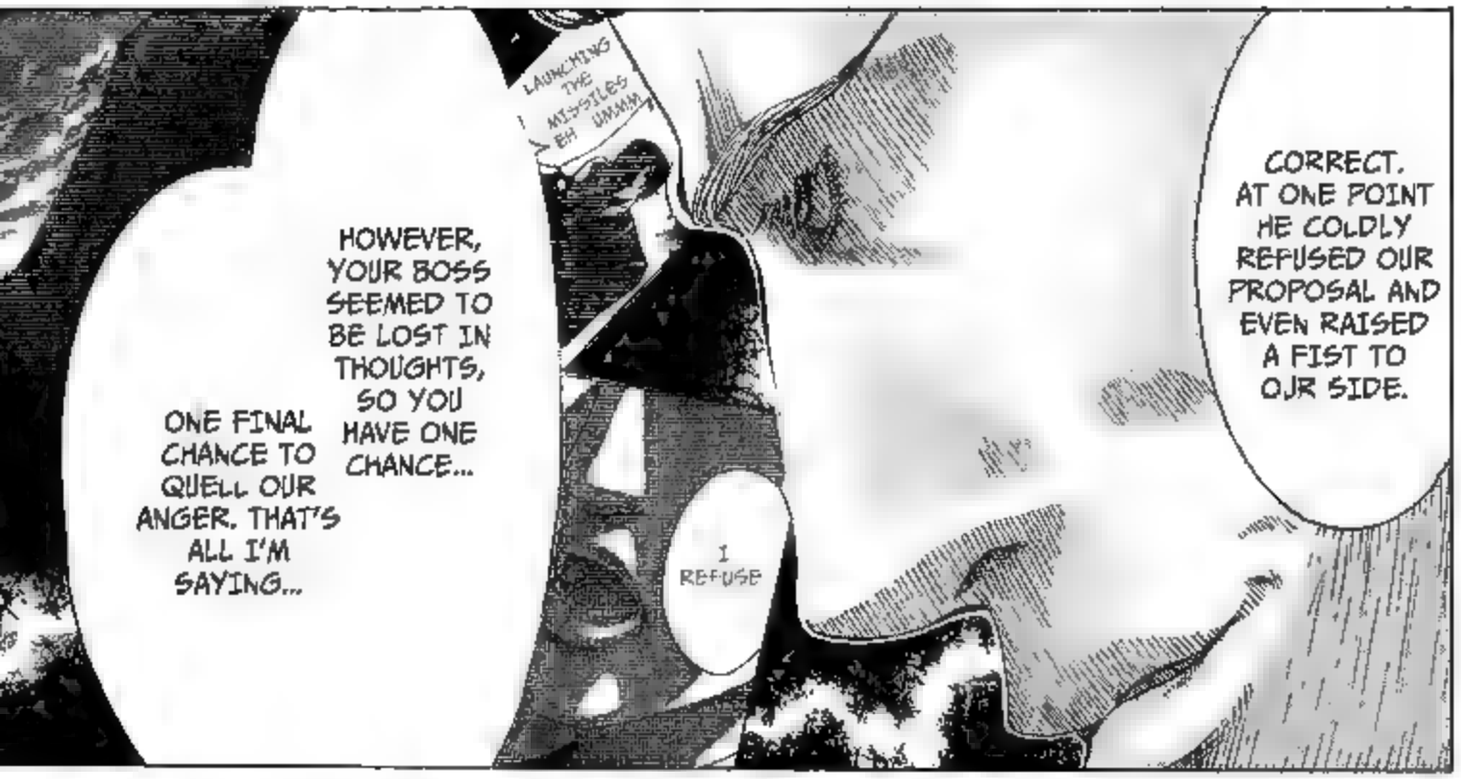
AS YOU KNOW, OUR BODY CHECKS ARE STILL PENDING.
YES.
MISTER CRAIG, PLEASE RESTRAIN YOURSELF A LITTLE.
MISTER CRAIG.
YOU DAMN MONKEYS!
MONKEYS! YOU MONKEYS! WHO ON EARTH WOULD TOUCH ANY OF YOUR PARTS, YOU SCUM?!

!
HOW ABOUT WE GET STARTED?
AH YEAH... I SEE THAT YOU ARE CARRYING TWO DEADLY WEAPONS, BUT THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THEM.
.....
OUT-SIDE ON LOOKOUT
YEAH, IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE OTHER TWO AND TWO OF YOUR COMRADES ARE...
I SEE... THEN, LET'S GET TO THE REAL ISSUE AT HAND.



?
ERMM... WHAT WAS THAT NOW...?
I COULDN'T HEAR CLEARLY, SO CAN YOU PLEASE REPEAT WHAT YOU SAID ONCE MORE?

THREE DAYS AGO,
USING SADAKUNI, YOUR SIDE WAS CONTENDING FOR POSSESSION OF STOCKS, BUT THE PLAN FAILED AND THE END RESULT WAS A HUGE LOSS...
ONE OF THE REASONS FOR YOUR BOSS' RESENTMENT IS DUE TO BEING REJECTED WHEN HE REQUESTED COOPERATION FROM US, THE KAKEROU...
HENCE HIS DEMAND CAME FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS FROM STOCKS, THAT IS, THIRTY BILLION YEN... OR, HANDING YOU 24 OF THE 48 MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS IF I RECALL CORRECTLY.


LAUNCHING THE MISSILES EH HMMM
CORRECT. AT ONE POINT HE COLDLY REFUSED OUR PROPOSAL AND EVEN RAISED A FIST TO OUR SIDE.
I REFUSE
HOWEVER, YOUR BOSS SEEMED TO BE LOST IN THOUGHTS, SO YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE...
ONE FINAL CHANCE TO QUELL OUR ANGER. THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING...

MISTER CRAIG. I APOLOGIZE, BUT THERE CURRENTLY ARE NO VACANCIES IN MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS TO YOU IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I WILL FURTHER INFORM YOU ABOUT THE COMPENSATION OF 30 BILLION YEN... BUT PLEASE REMEMBER, OUR DUTY HERE IS TO DELIVER OUR SUPERIORS' WORDS... THEY HAVE A VERY GOOD ANSWER FOR YOU.

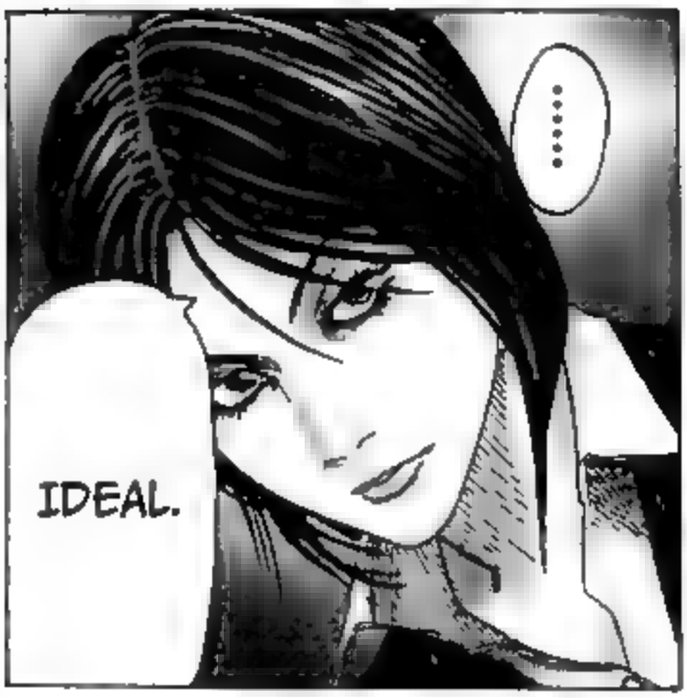
IN OTHER WORDS,
WE'VE NOT A SINGLE CENT TO SPARE FOR VULGAR, BLOCKHEADED, WHITE PIGS THAT CAN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT COLLECT MONEY.

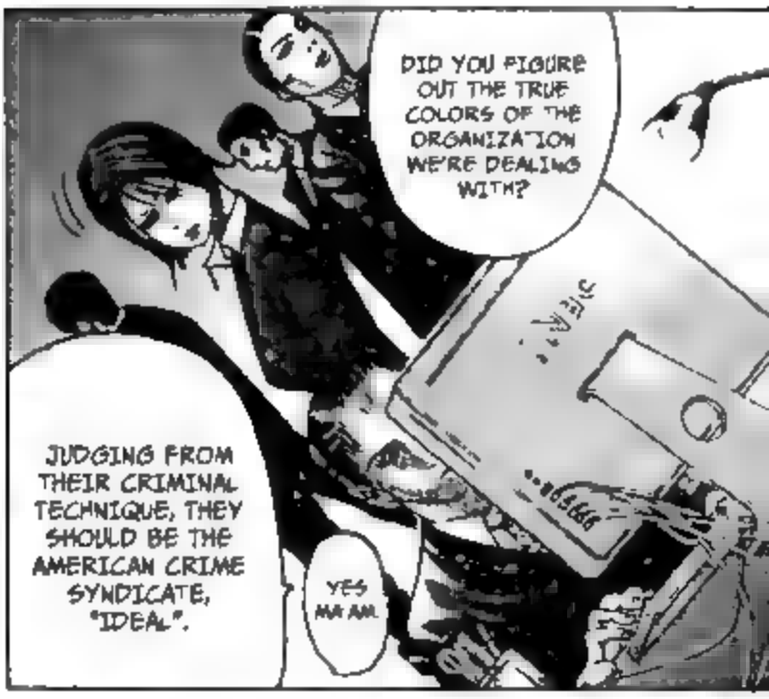
OKAY.
WHAT HE MEANS IS... YOU MUST LEAVE.

#74
IDEAL
O~KAY
O~KAY OKAY
WHITE PIG, EH? HAHAHA HAHA... YOU DON'T SAY...
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS HILARIOUS? WAS IT ENTERTAINING FOR YOU? HM?
LET THIS MONKEY-HATER FOREIGNER TELL YOU SOMETHING:
YOU'RE HAPPY...
AREN'T YOU? BUT THAT HAPPINESS WILL COST Y'ALL A LOT!
THE NEGOTIATION'S CANCELLED.
YOU'D BETTER BE REGRETTING THIS...
BECAUSE NOW YOU'RE OUR ORGANIZATION'S ENEMY
.....

第74話
IDEAL

EVERYONE, PLEASE LISTEN.
WE AGREED WITH THE OTHER SIDE TO MEET 30 MINUTES LATER AT WAREHOUSE NUMBER 4 ON DAIKOKU PIER.
THEY DEMAND THAT BOTH PARTIES CONSIST OF FIVE PEOPLE.
WE'LL ANALYZE THE LAYOUT OF THE LOCATION AND START GUARDING IMMEDIATELY. ASSEMBLE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.


.....
IDEAL.


DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE TRUE COLORS OF THE ORGANIZATION WE'RE DEALING WITH?
JUDGING FROM THEIR CRIMINAL TECHNIQUE, THEY SHOULD BE THE AMERICAN CRIME SYNDICATE, "IDEAL".
YES MA'AM.

KNOWN AS THE STEADY FINANCIAL AID FOR MANY ANTI GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND GUERILLA ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD... THEY DON'T HESITATE IN USING TERROR AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS. THEIR BOSS IS UNKNOWN.
IT LOOKS LIKE RECENTLY THEY FOCUS ON TAKING OVER CRIME SYNDICATES.
IDEAL... ITS MEANING CHARACTERIZES "THE PERFECT CUT OF A DIAMOND".

IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR NEXT TARGET MIGHT BE US...
THEY'VE BEEN PLANNING TO FIGHT EVER SINCE THE FIRST ENCOUNTER.
THEY WERE BLUFFING WHEN THEY REQUESTED 30 BILLION OR THE MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS...

REFEREE NOWA'S COOPERATION IS CERTAIN... HIS MEN, LEE AND RON, ARE RESERVED AS SWEEPERS FOR THIS OCCASION.

OKAY
I'LL PERSONALLY GO TO THE PIER. ARRANGE FOUR SWEEPERS TO FOLLOW ME.
HOWEVER, IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME TO GATHER THE A RANKS THAT ARE SCATTERED ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

I'LL TAKE LEE AND RON... THOSE TWO ARE DECIDED BUT...
KEEP ON SEARCHING. WE NEED TO FIND MORE "A" RANKS.
.....
THOSE TWO ARE COMPATIBLE GUYS, BUT...
I WANT TO AVOID OTHER REFEREES' INTERVENTION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

I FOUND THE LIST OF FOREIGNERS ENTERING OUR LANDS WITHIN LAST THREE DAYS.
IT'S POSSIBLE TO NARROW DOWN THE SEARCH RESULTS SINCE THEY TOOK ACTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ABANDONED MINE GAME ENDED.
I'VE JUST COMPLETED CROSS CHECKING THEM AND THE PEOPLE RELATED TO IDEAL...
WHILE SOME DETAILS ARE UNSETTLED, IT SEEMS LIKE FOUR OF THEM ENTERED THE COUNTRY. THIS MAY BE IRRELEVANT, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'RE USING FAKE PASSPORTS.
MARTIN BRUCE WHYTE,
JACK REPASS,
GILBERT ISAAC,
KIRSTEN HOWARD
ALL FOUR OF THEM...

.....
NOTORIOUS ASSASSINS? AN ASSASSIN BECOMES WORTHLESS ONCE HIS NAME BECOMES KNOWN.
...ARE NOTORIOUS ASSASSINS.
I SUPPOSE WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THAT THESE FOUR WILL BE IN THEIR FIVE MAN TEAM.

KEEP ON INVESTIGA-TING, AND CONTACT ME WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING.
I SHOULD GET GOING...
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE LAST PERSON, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IDEAL IS MADE UP OF EXCEPT-IONALLY STRONG MEMBERS.

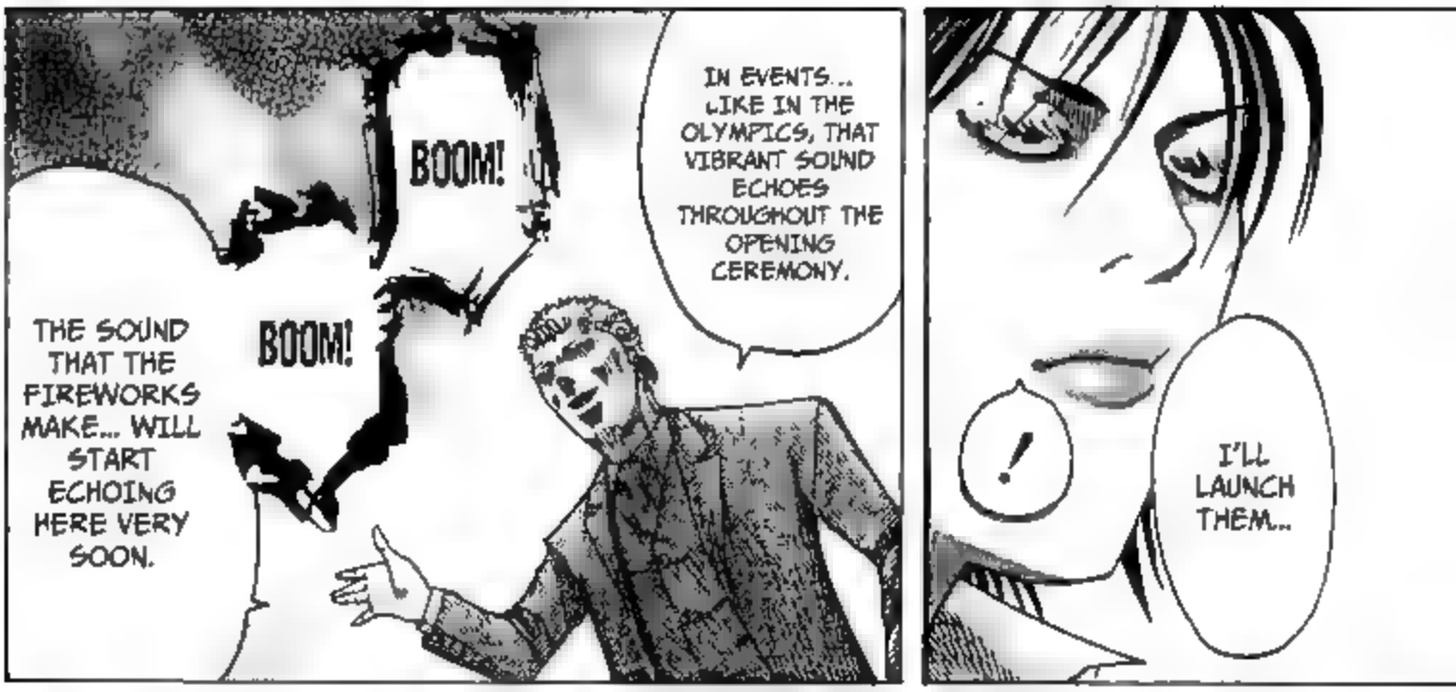
TL NOTE: IN ENGLISH, IT MEANS SOMETHING LIKE "OH MY ", BUT NOWAMI IS SAYING IT IN A DISTINCT WAY THAT MIZUE IDENTIFIES HIM BY IT. A MORE FAMILIAR EQUIVALENT IN JAPANESE WOULD BE "ARARA" OR "ARERE"

WHENEVER I COME, THERE'S ALWAYS AN UPROAR.
YOU'RE NOISY AS USUAL, MIZUE.
ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, YOU LOOK BUSY.

REFEREE NOWA.
.....

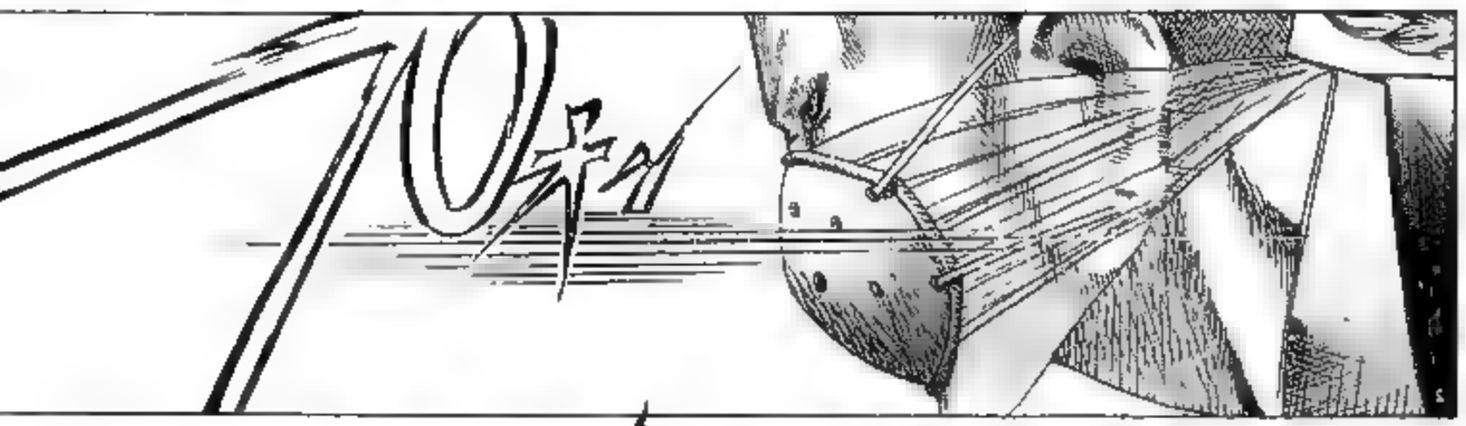
BUT STILL, IT'S A RARE THING TO SEE KAKEROU BEING TARGETED BY AN OVERSEAS ORGANIZATION.
IT'S OKAY, I'M WORRIED AS WELL...
THIS MAY NOT BE THE FIRST TIME...
ABSOLU-TELY NOT, SIR.
FURTHERMORE, I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONSIDE-RATION.
I HOPE I DIDN'T CAUSE MORE TROUBLES INSTEAD.
BELIEVING THAT IT'S THE RIGHT THING, I OFFERED TWO OF MY GUYS TO YOU.
THE EXTENT OF THE POWER WE POSSESS.
MAKE SURE TO SHOW THEM...
IN THIS CONFRON-TATION... FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.
DO YOUR BEST.
THIS FIRST CONTACT WITH THEM IS VERY IMPORTANT.
OF COURSE, SIR.

THE NEGOTIATION IS BROKEN? YOU SEEM VERY CERTAIN...
WHERE ON EARTH CAN YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN SWALLOW THOSE ONE SIDED CONDITIONS...? BESIDES...
I'M WELL AWARE THAT YOU ALREADY KILLED THE TWO WE LEFT OUTSIDE.
STOP THAT MONKEY PLAY ALREADY... HMM, MONKEY... OR, WAS IT PIG...?


BOOM!
BOOM!
THE SOUND THAT THE FIREWORKS MAKE... WILL START ECHOING HERE VERY SOON.
IN EVENTS... LIKE IN THE OLYMPICS, THAT VIBRANT SOUND ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE OPENING CEREMONY.
!
I'LL LAUNCH THEM...

AND DIE!
SO FOR NOW, YOU WILL BECOME THE LAUNCHED FIREWORKS IN THE OPENING CEREMONY OF OUR KAKEROU TAKEOVER...

JUST TRY ME.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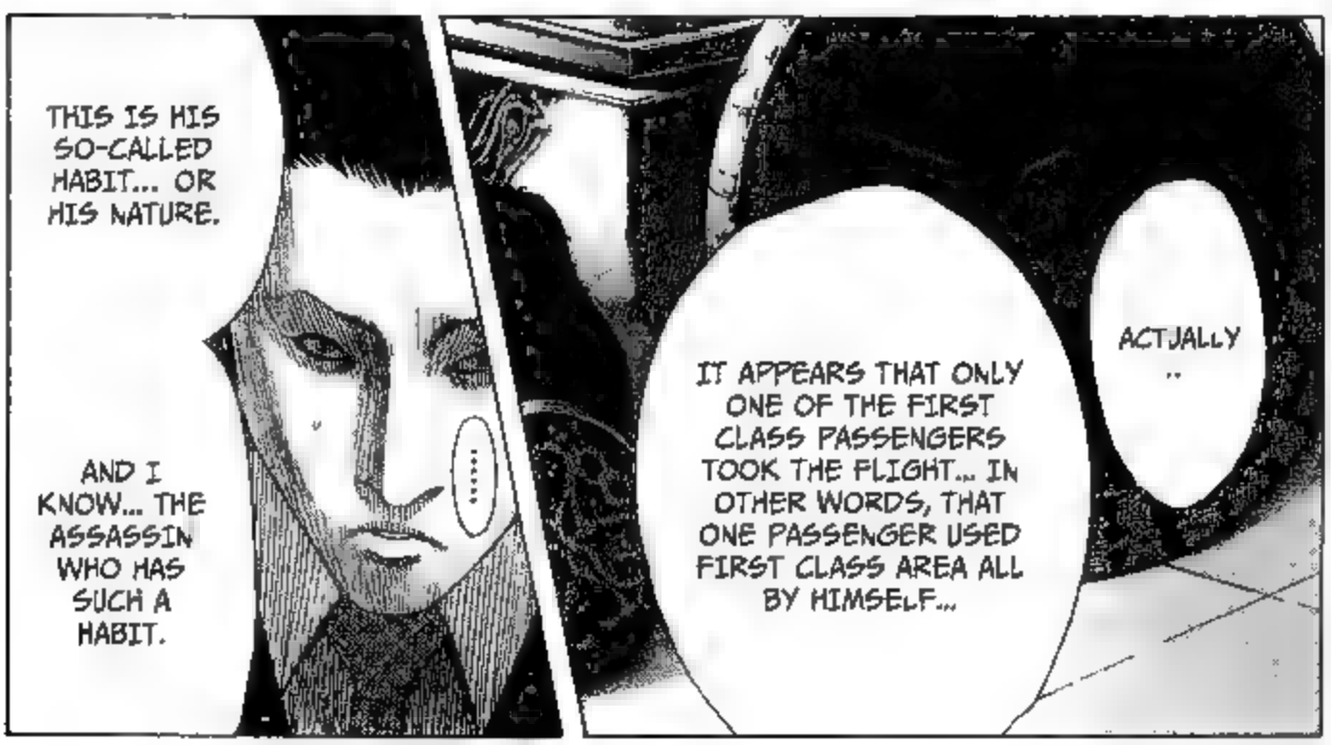
!

THIS PASSENGER LIST...
I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT FLIGHT NUMBER 265.
HEY, YOU.
COME HERE FOR A SECOND.

REFEREE NOWA... IS SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT THEM?
YES SIR... AS FAR AS I KNOW, RESERVATIONS WERE FULL FOR THOSE SEATS.
WHAT WAS THE RESERVATION STATUS FOR FIRST CLASS SEATS ON THAT FLIGHT?


THIS IS HIS SO-CALLED HABIT... OR HIS NATURE.
AND I KNOW... THE ASSASSIN WHO HAS SUCH A HABIT.
IT APPEARS THAT ONLY ONE OF THE FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS TOOK THE FLIGHT... IN OTHER WORDS, THAT ONE PASSENGER USED FIRST CLASS AREA ALL BY HIMSELF...
ACTJALLY ..

I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH ABOUT HIM BESIDES A BUNCH OF RUMORS... BUT IF I RECALL CORRECTLY...
HE'S BETTER KNOWN AS... WELL I USED TO CALL HIM BY THIS NAME... CARACAL... AND HIS STRENGTH...

KAKEROU WAS FINISHED...
!
DON'T STRUGGLE, FEMALE MONKEY.
THE MOMENT I ARRIVED!
THE BLACK-EARED PREDATOR, CARACAL HAS ARRIVED.

#738
Assassin's Terms
SILENCE
I HAD A SINGLE CHANCE TO SEE CARACAL IN A VIDEO RECORDED IN A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA.
MANY YEARS AGO...
BUT I CAN REMEMBER THAT HE HAD AN UNEVEN BIRTHMARK ON HIS EAR.
ON THAT VIOLENT VIDEO, NOTHING COULD BE SEEN EXCEPT ONE PART OF HIS BODY
YES... WITHOUT A DOUBT, THIS IS IT.
IT SEEMS THAT IDEAL IS THE ONE USING CARACAL...
PICKING A FIGHT WITH KAKEROU IS A GRAVE SIN... FIRST AND FOREMOST, I'LL WATCH THIS OPENING BATTLE AND CONFIRM HIS STRENGTH.
CARACAL...
I GAVE HIM THAT NAME BECAUSE OF THAT VIDEO... IT MEANS "BLACK EAR" IN PORTUGUESE.

!!
THE GAME IS ON!
HAHAA!

HMM.
WE GO AHEAD AND CLEAN UP THE SMALL FRY,
AND MAKE SURE...
LEE, WHAT'S THE PLAN...?
WE NEVER GET IN HER WAY.
MHMM...

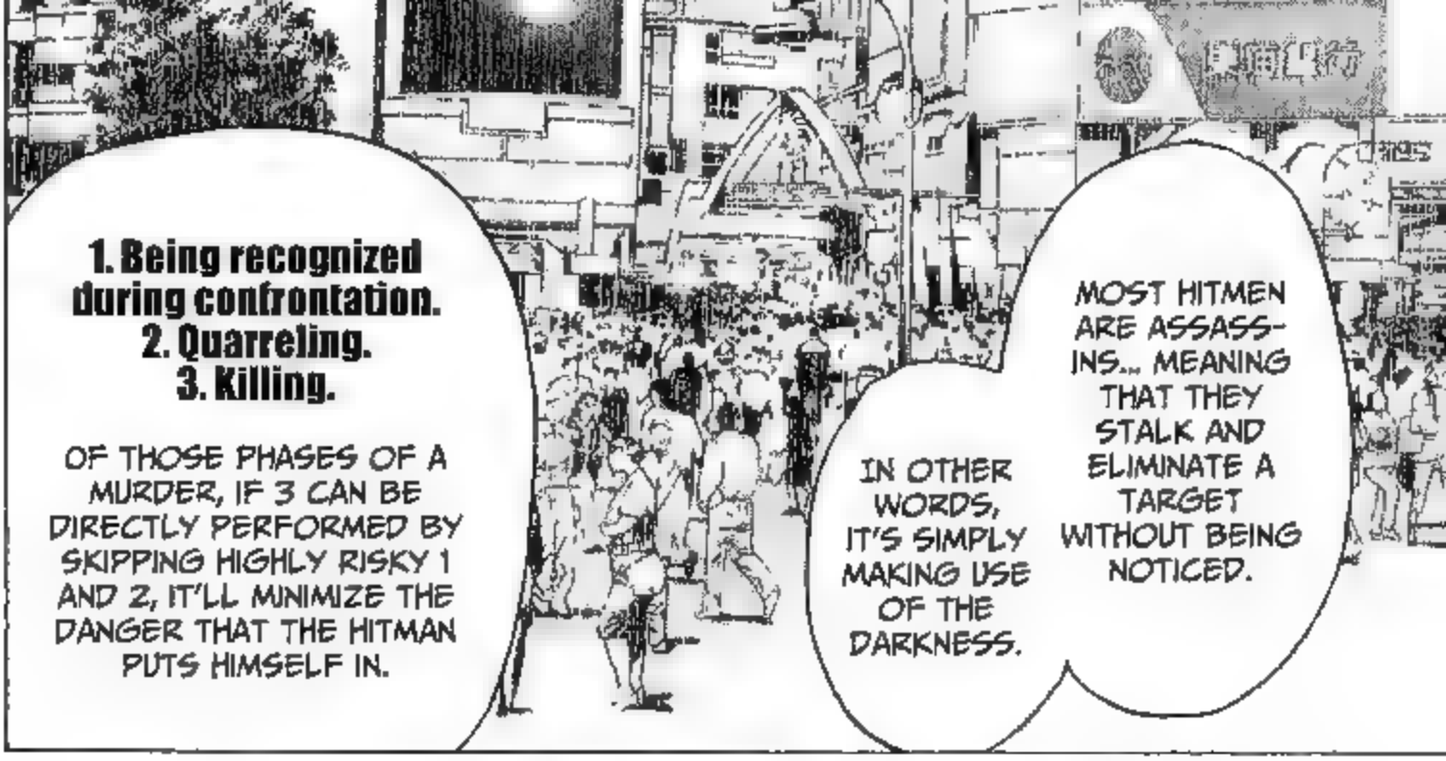
第7話
Assassin's Terms

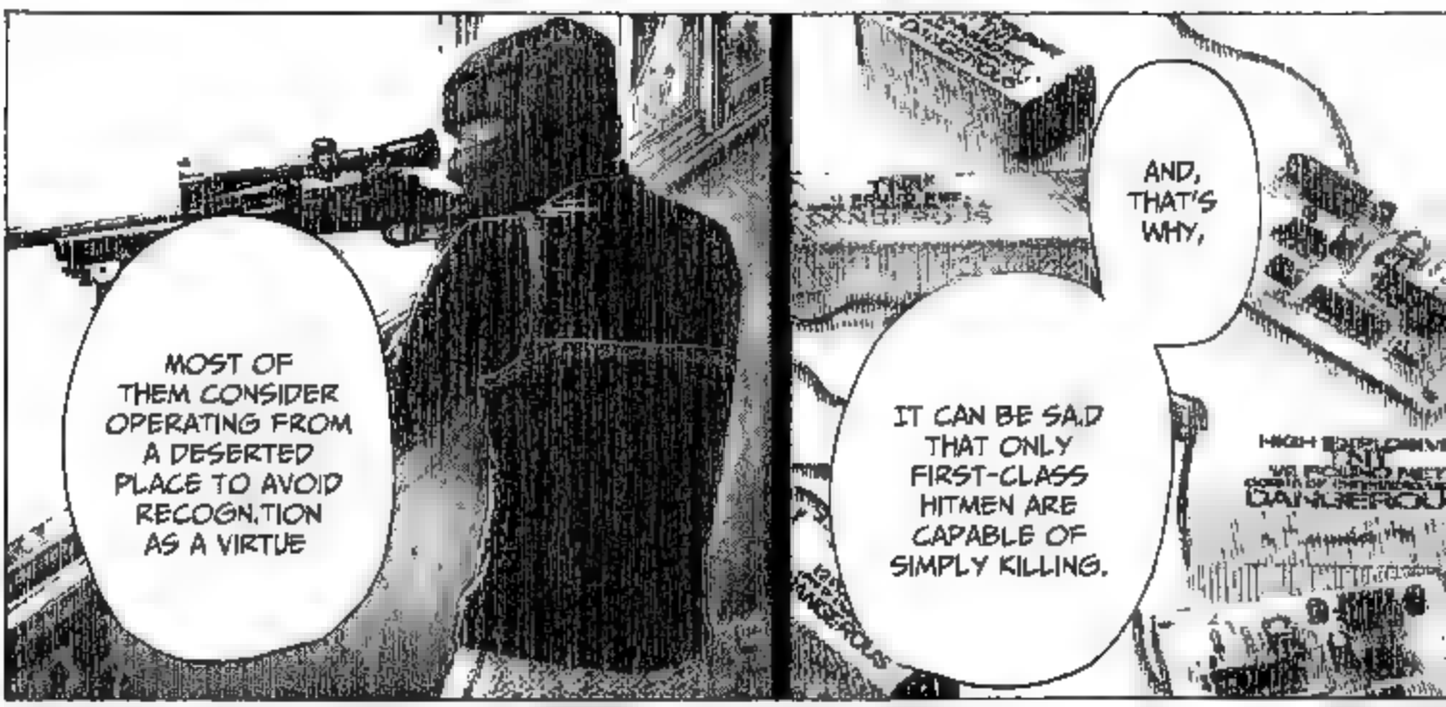
Martin Bruce Whyte.
CURRENTLY 27. HE IS THE SERIAL KILLER THAT SHOOK NEW YORK 5 YEARS AGO.
ALSO KNOWN AS "MARTIN THE GRIEVER"
DURING HIS HOMICIDES, MARTIN THINKS OF HIS VICTIMS AS HIS OWN FRIEND OR FAMILY BEFORE HE COMMITS THE MURDER.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE CRAVES BEREAVEMENT, SO HE NEEDS TO KILL NEW PEOPLE TO GRIEVE FOR THEM.
YEAH YEAH... AND?
THE OTHER GUY IS?

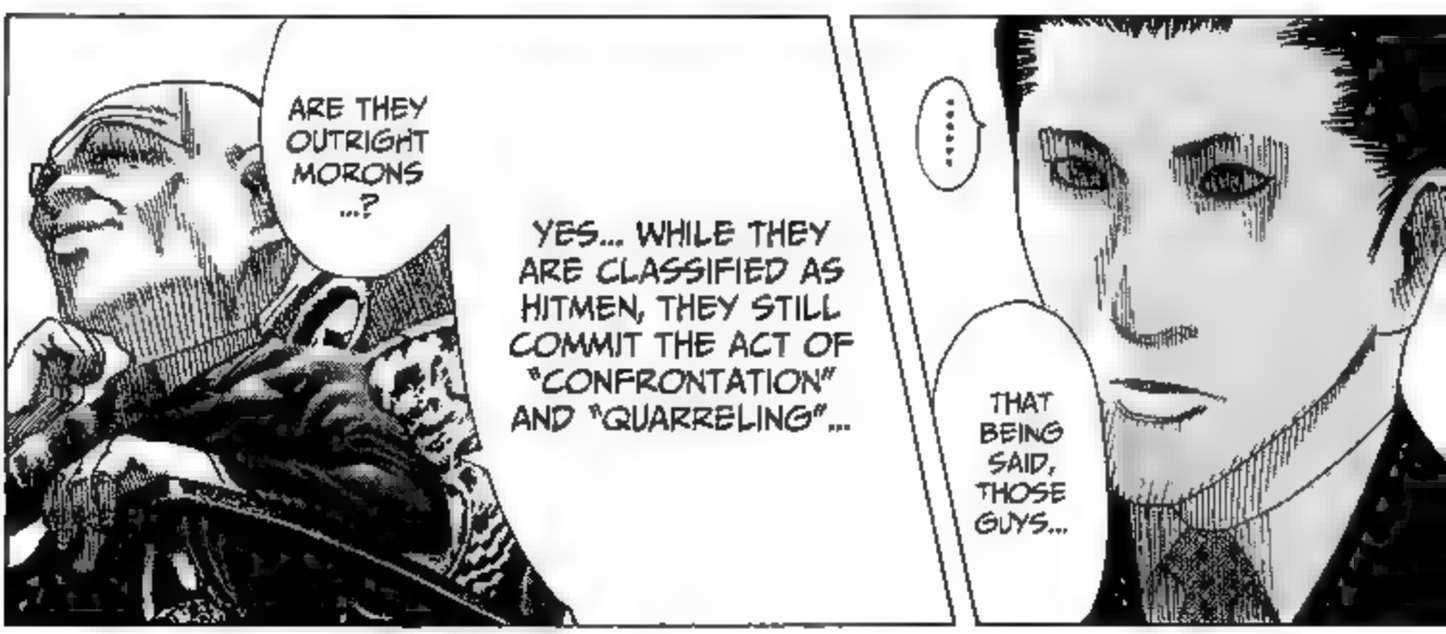
FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE, HE KILLED HIS TEAM MEMBERS WHO HAD DIFFERING OPINIONS... IT LOOKS LIKE IDEAL PICKED HIM UP AFTER THAT INCIDENT.
.....

A HITMAN. HUH.
.....

Gilbert Isaac.
A FORMER JS SOLDIER
IT SEEMS LIKE THE TASTE OF MURDER GIVES HIM A TWISTED PLEASURE THAT FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF PATRIOTISM.

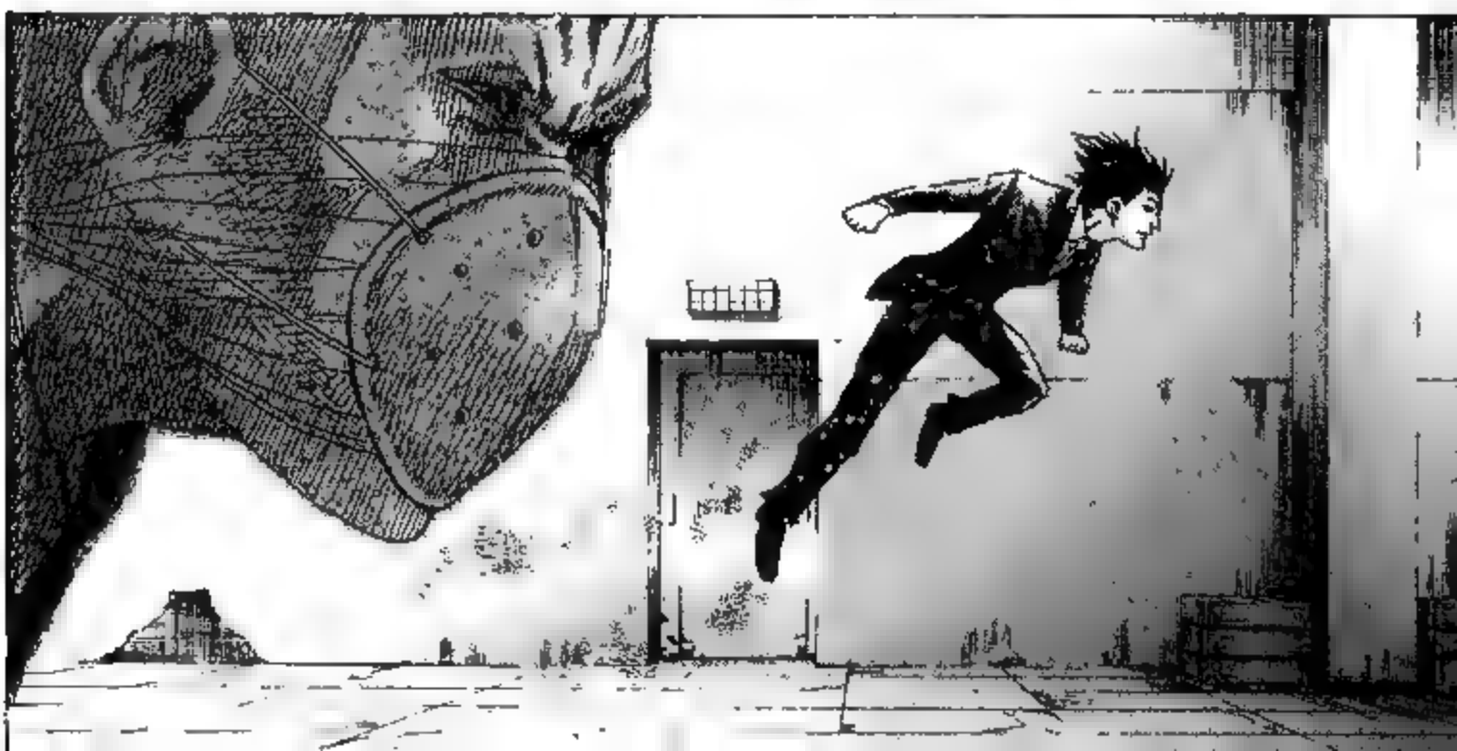

1. Being recognized during confrontation.
2. Quarreling.
3. Killing.
OF THOSE PHASES OF A MURDER, IF 3 CAN BE DIRECTLY PERFORMED BY SKIPPING HIGHLY RISKY 1 AND 2, IT'LL MINIMIZE THE DANGER THAT THE HITMAN PUTS HIMSELF IN.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S SIMPLY MAKING USE OF THE DARKNESS.
MOST HITMEN ARE ASSASSINS... MEANING THAT THEY STALK AND ELIMINATE A TARGET WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.


MOST OF THEM CONSIDER OPERATING FROM A DESERTED PLACE TO AVOID RECOGNITION AS A VIRTUE
AND, THAT'S WHY,
IT CAN BE SAID THAT ONLY FIRST-CLASS HITMEN ARE CAPABLE OF SIMPLY KILLING.


ARE THEY OUTRIGHT MORONS ...?
YES... WHILE THEY ARE CLASSIFIED AS HITMEN, THEY STILL COMMIT THE ACT OF "CONFRONTATION" AND "QUARRELING"...
.....
THAT BEING SAID, THOSE GUYS...

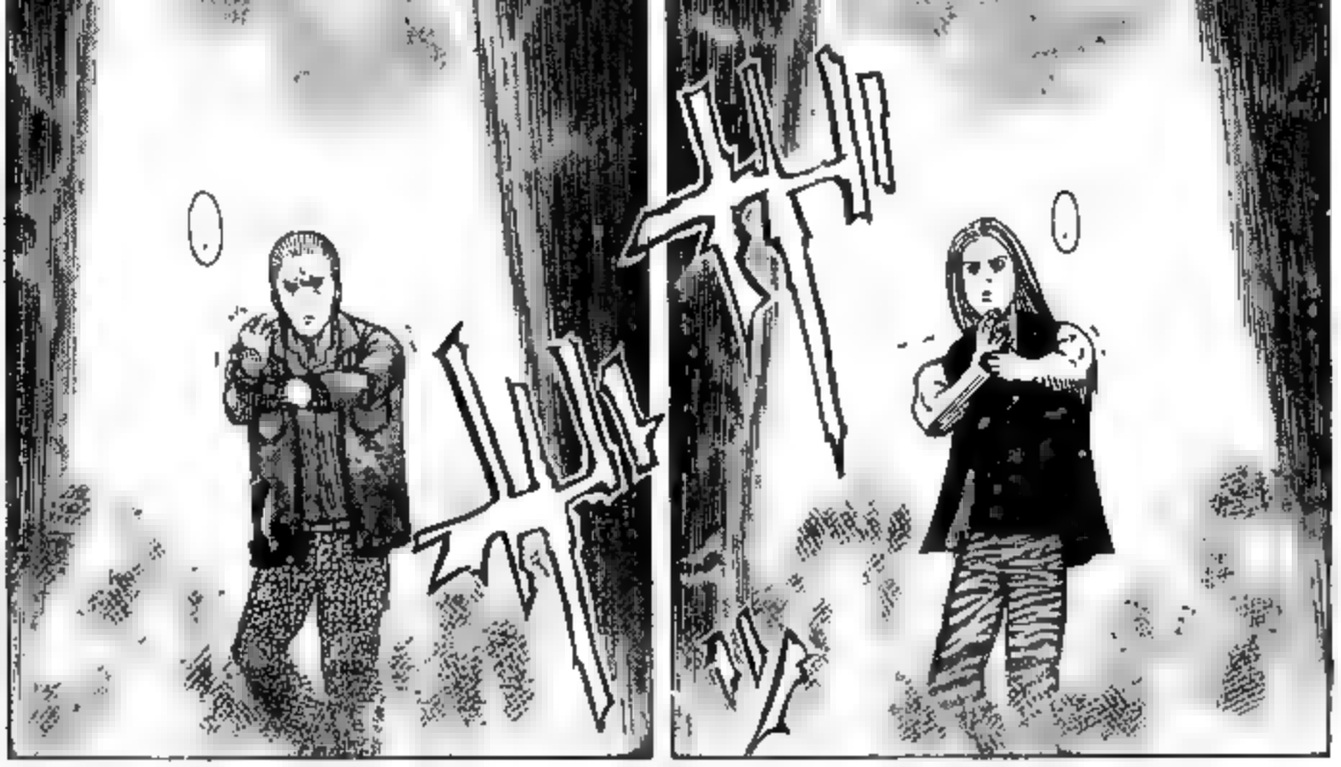
HOW ...
HOW COULD THIS BE?
IS BETTER THAN FIRST CLASS HUMEN ? THAT'S THE QUESTION
.....
A KNIFE ON HIS LEFT...
!!
AND ON HIS RIGHT
HUHHH

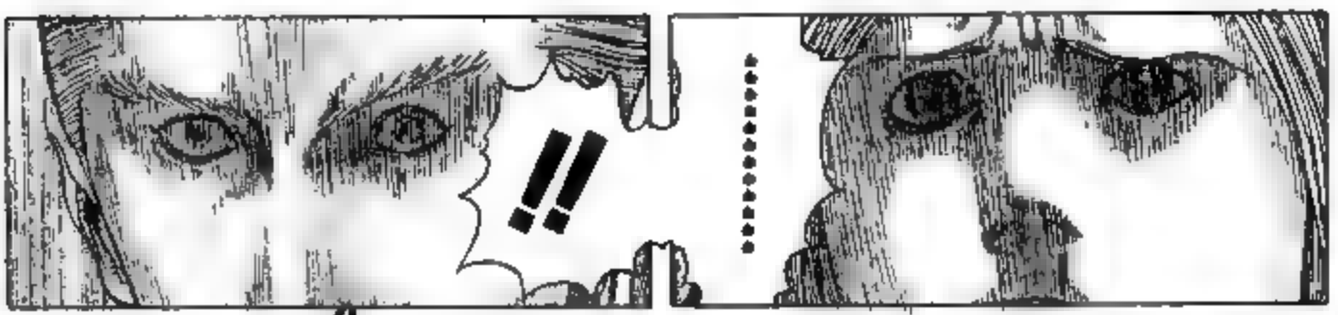
TO THINK I HAVE TO KILL YOU ALREADY... I'M SORRY... I HAD A GUN... THIS IS SAD... BECAUSE MY SADNESS TODAY WON'T LAST LONGER THAN THE OTHER DAYS...
YOU KNOW, WE COULD'VE BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS YOU AND I... YOU MAY'VE BEEN...
MY BEST FRIEND FOR A LIFETIME...



SORRY TO ,NFORM YOU GUYS, BUT WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH A BODY CHECK WHATSOEVER...
!
BEFORE YOUR FEET TOUCH THE GROUND AGAIN, I WILL PUT AN END...
IF YOU'RE GONNA BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME YOUR-SELVES FOR GOING THROUGH IT.
HEY... YOU TWO THINK YOU BECAME BRUCE LEE OR SOMETHING?
TO YOUR LIVES!

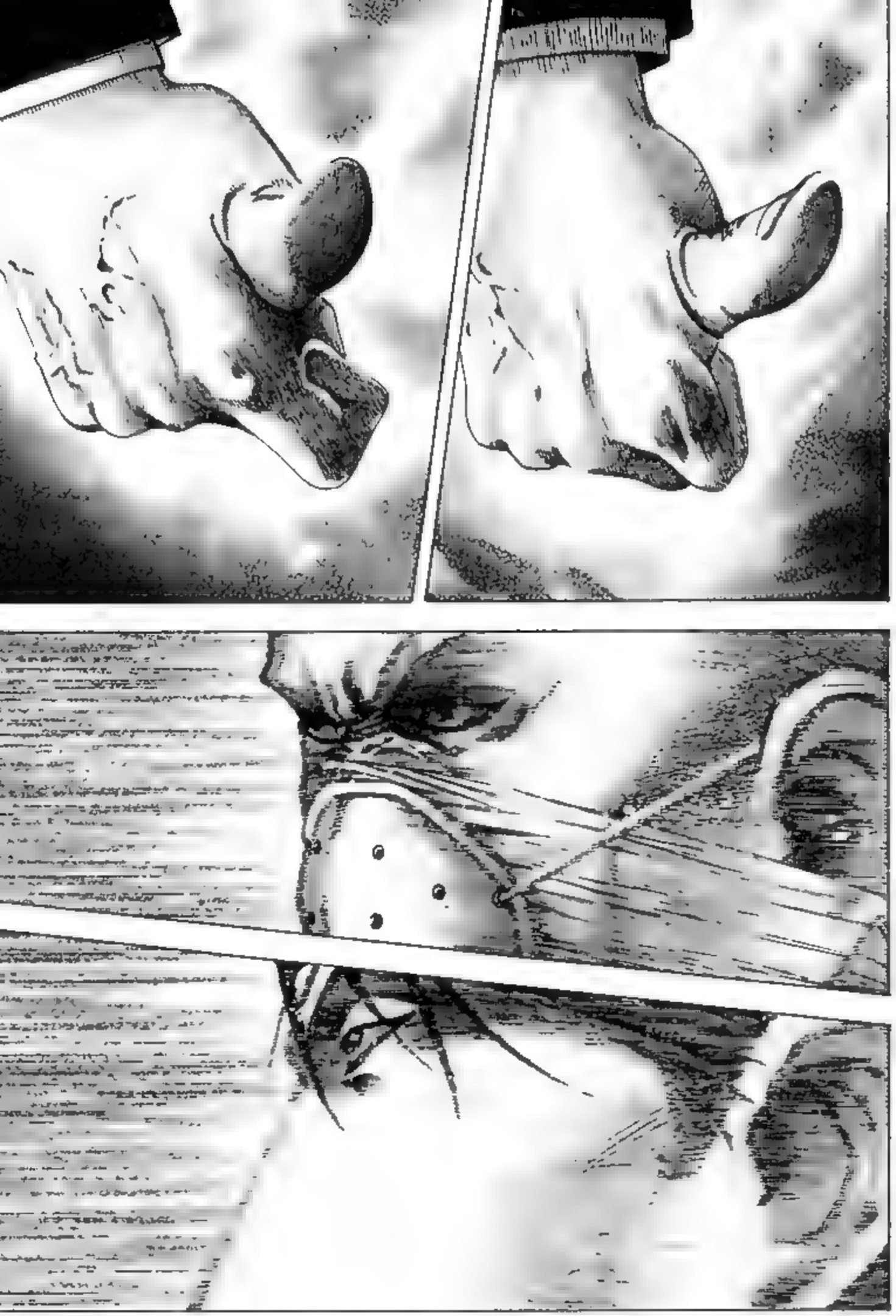
PUNK
PUNK
WHIZZZZ
PUNK

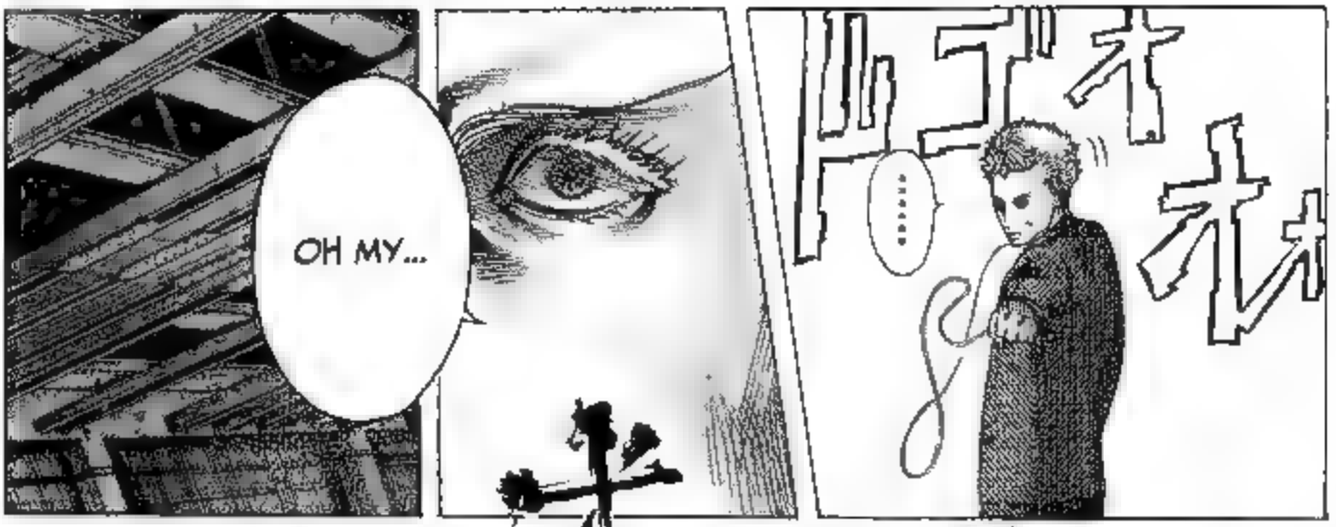



!!
.....

SORRY MAN...
BUT I CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH YOU...
I AM BRUCE LEE'S REINCAR-NATION.

CREAK





TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 8

欲望と野望の狭間で悪魔の微笑!!!

新たなる賭けへの誘い!!

最強の掃除人 VS 黒耳の悪魔!!!

稼げる

「週刊ヤングジャンプ」H19年40号－45号、47号－51号まで
好評掲載されたものを収録しました。

◉ヤングジャンプ・コミックス◉

嘘喰い
❼

発行日
2008年３月24日［第1刷発行］

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©Toshio Sako 2008**編集**
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発行所
株式会社集英社
〒101-8050 東京都千代田区一ツ橋2丁目5番10号
電話＝東京03(3230)6222(編集部)/03(3230)6191(販売部)/03(3230)6076(読者係)
Printed in Japan

印刷所
中央精版印刷株式会社

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ISBN978-4-08-877410-7 C9979

USOGUI SIDE STORY

DEBT COLLECTOR YAKOU HIKOICHI

WHO IS THIS GUY...

NOT ONLY HIS EYEBROWS, HIS FACE IS IDENTICAL TO MINE.

IF THERE WAS A MARK ON HIS FACE, THAT WOULD BE A GOOD DISTINCTION...

IS NOT A COMFORT-ABLE FEELING.

MUMBLE MUMBLE

ANYWAY, HAVING THE SAME FACE AS OTHERS

BACK TO JAPAN.

IF I TALK ABOUT THIS STORY ANY FURTHER, IT WILL INFLUENCE THE MAIN STORY AND MY PERSONALITY, SO I BETTER CHANGE THE STORY.

I FINALLY FULFILLED MY DREAM, I OPENED A BUTLER CAFE.

I HOPE WE WILL MAKE THIS CAFE PROSPEROUS TOGETHER, AND DEVELOP MY OWN BUSINESS.

THESE ARE MY STAFF THAT SHARE THE SAME AMBITION AS MINE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

A STAFF MEMBER SUDDENLY SAID HE HAS TO RESIGN RIGHT WHEN HE WAS GETTING THE HANG OF THIS JOB.

WELL, MY PARENTS ARE DOWN WITH ILLNESS, SO I HAVE TO HELP MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS, I WILL RESIGN THIS MONTH.

A MONTH LATER, WHEN THE STORE WAS ABOUT TO GET RIGHT ON ITS PATH,

A CHALLENGE FOR ME AS THE OWNER APPEARED.

I WILL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN... WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY'S BUSINESS?

I HAVE THE SAME AMBITION AS YOU, SO I REALLY WANT TO WORK WITH YOU... HOW ABOUT THIS,

WHAT WILL YOU DO, HIKOICHI? IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO MAKE PEOPLE DO WHAT YOU WANT!! NEXT VOLUME, THE CLIMAX!

HOOOO

FROM THEN ON, I HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE MYSTERIES OF HUMAN NATURE... WHAT AM I LACKING?

TOO BIG A FAVOR? I WOULD RATHER YOU NOT QUIT...

NO, IT'LL BE TOO BIG A FAVOR IF YOU HELP ME THAT MUCH.

...